

THE
Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXX.

5th July to 24th December

1909

THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS OFFICE:

DES VŒUX ROAD, HONGKONG, AND 131, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.

MDCCXCIX.

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THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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HONGKONG, MONDAY, 5TH JULY, 1909.

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BIRTH.

At Royston, Herts (by telegram), the 23rd June, the wife of CHARLES W. MAY, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, a daughter.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The German mail of the 2nd ultimo arrived for s.s. *Meist*, on the 29th June.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Mr. B. G. Tours, of H.B.M.'s Consular service, who has been home on leave, has just taken charge of the Consulate at Amoy.

Mr. W. S. Jackson, of the Yangtze Insurance Association, who has been seriously ill in Tientsin, has returned to Shanghai and is now well on the way to recovery.

The Prince Regent has given 60,000 taels towards the relief of distress in the province of Kansu, where a state of famine now exists in consequence of the long drought.

The International Skating Rink, Limited, at Shanghai has been successfully floated. The Directors will proceed to allotment and will give the necessary notice to shareholders in due course.

At the forthcoming annual meeting of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd., the Directors will recommend a final dividend of Tls. 2½ per share, making Tls. 5 per share for the year ended April 30 last.

The crusade against cigarette smoking continues at Foochow. In an anti-opium procession there last week two loads of cigarettes were carried by coolies to be burnt with the collection of old opium pipes and opium-smoking paraphernalia.

A Tokyo telegram states that beans and beancakes from Manchuria exported to Europe through Japanese merchants have already amounted to thirteen million yen in value. This fact is regarded in Japan as significant, showing how the resources of Manchuria are being developed by the Japanese.

Preliminary steps have been taken by the Board of Posts and Communications and the Japanese Minister, acting on behalf of the South Manchurian Railway Company, for the negotiation of a loan of \$2,150,000 for the construction of the Kirin-Changchun Railway. The loan, it is understood, is for twenty-five years at five per cent. The accountants and engineers will be Japanese.

A junior college, duly empowered to award the degrees of bachelor of arts and bachelor of science, has been unostentatiously opened in connection with the Philippine Normal School. The curriculum is an abridgement of the classical and scientific departments of standard American universities, and the degrees will be conferred after two years' work in addition to the regular four years of high school.

The lowest bid for the construction of six wooden lorchas for the Quartermaster's Department at Manila was submitted by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company. This company's bid was \$22,800.00 for the six lorchas. The other bidders and the amounts bid by each are as follows: Fred Wilson and Company, \$28,000; El Varadero de Manila, \$32,000; Juan Rodriguez, \$35,300; Cho Chung Lung, \$36,500.

The Secretary of the Shanghai-Hangchow Ning-po Railway informed the Shanghai correspondent of the *Times* that the statement to the effect that the competition for the supply of locomotives to the Company was limited to German manufacturers, is incorrect. The leading firms of all nationalities were asked to tender, and the German firm of Carlowitz, having sent in the lowest estimate, received the order in the natural course of events.

The remains of the late Dowager Empress of China are to be interred in October next.

"Our share in the Shire Line, which trades from London to Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, China and Japan, is (said the Chairman of the Royal Mail Line) gradually developing, and this Company is in a position to take advantage of any improvement in the trade of the East, or any great awakening of China, which many people foretell, which, of course, I fully realise may be many years coming about, but undoubtedly China is being gradually opened up with railways."

The profit of the Shantung Railway Company amounted in 1908 to m.2,965,377, against m.2,903,480 in 1907. A dividend of 4½ per cent., the same rate as for 1907, was declared. The result was unfavourably influenced by the decline of silver, in consequence of which the receipts of \$2,599,940 (1907, \$2,355,696) have only given m.4,645,099 (1907, m.5,036,043). The receipts of the four months of the current year amount to \$1,080,000, i.e., 28 per cent. higher than in the previous year.

A Washington telegram states that the latest name under consideration as a possible successor to Mr. Rockhill as United States Minister to China is that of President Jeremiah W. Jenks, of Cornell University. President Taft is well acquainted with the work of Professor Jenks in the Philippines and China, in connection with the study of economic and financial conditions in the Far East as a commissioner and agent of the United States Government, and some inquiries have been made to learn the disposition of the Senate in case his nomination as Minister to China should be sent to that body.

The *Singapore Free Press* in a leading article on the discussion which has taken place in the Hongkong Legislative Council on the Opium Bill, says:—"Like Hongkong we shall need to protest against changes in systems or practice which dislocate our finance by being too hastily adopted. And we, too, may need to ask for Imperial assistance to augment our sources of revenue, destroyed by the action of the friends of the present Government. The experience of this Colony, in the past, of the Colonial Office combined with the Treasury, has not been so satisfactory as to lead us to accept unhesitatingly the principle of "sacrifice the revenue and trust to us afterwards to make it up." That is what the Hongkong members were asked to do, and they naturally objected.

Colonel Bruce, the Superintendent of Police at Shanghai, mentions in his report that there are a great many unemployed foreigners in Shanghai; so many that their number "would come as an unpleasant surprise to many people." There seem to be three classes of them: Unemployed, honestly so-called, who would work if they had the chance; Unemployed who don't want to work at all so long as they can find other people to keep them, and whose designation should rather be Unemployable; and lastly growing youths, mainly Eurasian, "who require to be strictly and constantly supervised in order to keep them out of mischief, and, I regret to say, at times out of crime." Larceny and obtaining goods under false pretences figure amongst the chief crimes of which these youths are guilty. How to secure these boys a chance to live respectable lives is, the report says, a matter for the community rather than the police.

HONGKONG AND THE OPIUM QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 26th June.)

We cannot congratulate the unofficial members of the Legislative Council upon the result of their encounter with the Government on the Opium Bill on Thursday. They went to the Council, so the Hon. Mr. HEWITT said, with the intention of voting against the third reading of the Bill in order to again emphasise their protest against unfair treatment on the part of the Home Government, and they ended by voting in its favour in deference to an appeal by H.E. the GOVERNOR. Though this was evidently done with the greatest reluctance, the outstanding fact is that they stultified the action they had very properly taken on the second reading and throughout the discussion on Thursday until the time came for the vote to be taken. His EXCELLENCY's speech does not appear to us to contain any adequate reason for whitening down the strength of the protest emphasised by the amendment which the Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART had proposed in an effective little speech which we are sure has the cordial endorsement of the community. His suggestion to insert a suspensory clause would have served the excellent purpose of enabling the protest of last week, on the occasion of the second reading of the Bill, to get Home. Moreover it would have given the Colony the remote chance that some modifications might be made, particularly now that Lord CREWE, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has awakened to the fact that the Opium Question is fraught with difficulty. Secondly, it would have left an opening for, perhaps, an even remoter chance—the chance of a change of Government and a Conservative administration recognising the justice of proceeding more gradually with the reduction of the divan licences. His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR made the best defence possible for the Imperial Government, but we are constrained to point out that the defence ignored an important fact on which the unofficial contention largely rests. His EXCELLENCY said in effect that no business man would have undertaken to pay a proportion of a loss that could not be estimated, and the inference is that unofficial members made last week an unbusinesslike suggestion. His EXCELLENCY's dictum can be admitted, but the inference it suggests cannot, for the reason that prior to the debate on the second reading it was by no means clear that the loss could not be estimated roughly in the narrow sense, but, broadly speaking, near enough for practical purposes. So far from it being clear that the loss could not be estimated, it seemed reasonable to suppose that it could, because H.E. the GOVERNOR referred on March 11th to an estimate of \$500,000 made, we presume, by the Opium Farmer, and that reference contained no suggestion whatever that this was mere guesswork. Naturally, the unofficial members saw no reason why it might not have been referred Home as a rough estimate, near enough to carry the inquiry: "What proportion of an amount something like that is the Imperial Government prepared to ask Parliament for?" Surely this was not an impossible suggestion, from a business point of view; in fact, business men made it, and so far as we have been able to learn, the suggestion is one which is generally approved by business men in the Colony. The discussion on Thursday supplies no adequate excuse for "backing down" on the part of the unofficial members. The Government's strong card was that the issue of advertise-

ments for tenders for the Opium Farm was already delayed a month or two beyond the usual time, and they urged that to call for tenders before the Bill embodying the new conditions had become law would create such doubts in the minds of the persons tendering that no reasonable tender would be obtained. We think it will be generally admitted that this contention was effectively answered by the unofficial members. It does not seem to us that the passage of the Bill into law can have the slightest influence on the persons tendering. They, in any case, would submit tenders on definite and fixed terms. There is still the chance—remote though it may be—that the Imperial Government, now that it has begun to realise the difficulties involved, may see the necessity for modifying to some extent their instructions to the Colonial Government. This is what the Colony will continue to hope, and should that hope be realised the Colonial Government, in the matter of the tenders for the Opium Farm, would be in no better position than if the unofficial members had stuck to their guns. It was a mistake not to have voted against the third reading, but we hope the discussions which have taken place in the Council will nevertheless receive at the hands of His Majesty's Government the prompt and sympathetic consideration desired, and it may, perhaps, not be too much to hope that the decision will be telegraphed before the new tender is accepted.

CHINESE FINESSE.

(Daily Press, June 28th)

In the course of an article dealing with the question of the loan for the construction of the Canton-Hankow Railway, which appeared in the London *Morning Post*, the writer after referring to the decline of British influence at Peking observes that "it appears that there is a strange disposition on the part of the Chinese to regard with suspicion the several Powers who have pledged themselves to respect the independence and integrity of the Empire. Germany is not one of these Powers, and it would be only natural for her to profit by the apprehensions of the Chinese and to seek to gain advantages by expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance." It may be doubted whether the Chinese really feel so much suspicion with respect to the Powers who have guaranteed her integrity as is assumed, but it can be easily understood that she may be disposed to let them think that she does not implicitly rely upon them, as otherwise it would be, from a Chinese point of view, too much of an admission of dependence upon them. However this may be, there is a very simple explanation of the action of the Chinese authorities, if we bear in mind the course which China has so often before adopted in similar circumstances. Her policy has always been to conciliate the particular foreign nation who at a given moment happened to appear the strongest. In the early days of our diplomatic relations with China, other foreign nations were skilfully pitted against Great Britain, which was thought by the Chinese (erroneously as events have proved) to have ideas of territorial acquisition in China. No such designs were really entertained by Great Britain, where representatives and statesmen were well aware of the serious responsibilities which any such step must entail. But it was not unnatural that the Chinese should imagine such designs existed after the war; and Great Britain being looked upon as a Power to be feared, was treated with more

considerations than any other. Later when in conjunction with the United States Great Britain had made it clear that she favoured the policy of maintaining China's integrity, Russia appeared likely to be a menace to China, and forthwith that country was listened to more than any other Power, and was encouraged rather than checked in a policy of aggression until this was worked very ingeniously so as to menace Japan as well as China, and Russia and Japan were thus left to fight out the question of China's independence between them. This was indeed the avowed design of LI HUNG-CHANG, who had more to do with the foreign policy of China than any other official and who, it was discovered after his death, by a letter he had written on the subject, looked very calmly on the struggle between these two nations. He shrewdly estimated that whatever the result, it would be to the benefit of China. If Japan were worsted, a dangerous and traditional rival would be checked, and would be made more likely in the future to work in with China; on the other hand, if, as the event proved, Russia came off worst, an end would be put for some time at least to the aggressive designs on the part of that Power, against which the Chinese had for years been temporising.

It is more than probable that these accepted tactics are just those which are being acted upon at the present time, and that any leaning which China may show towards Germany may be easily accounted for on the very simple ground that knowing what is going on as to the augmentation of the German Navy, China deems it well to be on good terms with a nation whose power abroad is so much on the increase. In this she is not to be blamed, so long as she keeps good faith with other nations; but it would be a great assumption to conclude that on this account China is at all likely to make any substantial political concessions to Germany. The Chinese Government may very possibly consider that German influence will be of use to counteract any strong action on the part of Japan, or any other nation with whom China might be brought into opposition, and may find it convenient to conciliate a Power which may be a useful champion; but there is not sufficient reason to assume that these advances have any more serious bearing, as seems to be suggested by the writer in our London contemporary. It is not likely that Germany would under any circumstance identify herself with China further than exchanging courtesies and giving advice, or that China would in reality make any concessions to her that would make it worth her while to do.

Finally, we cannot endorse the statement that Germany is not pledged to respect the independence and integrity of China. On the contrary, Great Britain and Germany were the first among the Powers to pledge themselves in this direction. By the Anglo-German Agreement of 1900, both Governments agreed not to "make use of the present complication to obtain for themselves any territorial advantages in Chinese dominions, and will direct their policy towards maintaining undiminished the territorial condition of the Chinese Empire." This was, in fact, the first Agreement made of this nature, and its final clause was an undertaking to communicate the Agreement to the other Powers interested and "especially to Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States of America and [to] invite them to accept the principles recorded in it." So far then from Germany not being one of the Powers pledged to respect the independence and

integrity of China, she shares with Great Britain the distinction of being the first to give the pledge.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, June 29th.)

On May 3rd we remarked: "However it is going to be brought about, signs are not wanting China is ripening for a revolution, the greatest that has as yet happened in any Asiatic country." We are not addicted to making statements without foundation, nor without a knowledge of current international politics. Nevertheless our redoubtable contemporary, the *Japan Mail*, has been essaying from his feeble armoury to shiver a lance with us. This is what our contemporary conceives he sees in our remarks:—"This we interpret as an analysis that the Manchu element will eventually revolt against the introduction of constitutional Government." Now we may point out that our article did not from beginning to end make a single mention of the Manchu element; what we stated distinctly was:—"As usually happens before revolutions come to a head, the main trouble in China is financial"; and *apropos* of this we mentioned that the financial reforms urged by the new Regency were meeting with the strongest opposition from the still powerful reactionary party, who were quite prepared on the first symptom of a real intention to put these reforming views into practice to take overt action. It is a vulgar error, proceeding from an altogether erroneous view of the present relations of Manchus and Chinese, that there is any distinct pro-Manchu "Party" in China, or anything that can be interpreted as implying a difference of nationality. The Manchus have long ceased to have a country outside China: at the time of the conquest the entire Manchu nation was practically transferred to Chinese soil, and the Russians in taking possession of the land of Eastern Manchuria found it uninhabited except for a few hunters and fishermen. In the Eighteen Provinces the Manchu settlements, at first intended as garrisons to overawe a subject population, have in the course of less than three centuries entirely lost the practice of arms, and the Manchu element has sunk down to be a mere caste amongst the population of the Empire, and is penetrated by the same lines of thought as the remainder of the population amongst which it moves. Under the feeble successors of K'ANGHI, the Chinese were astute enough to gradually obtain possession of the military forces of the Empire; and at the present moment all the physical force of the State is in their hands. They, as well as the Manchus themselves, are perfectly well aware of the fact, and tolerate the régime, much as the peoples of Europe do the Royal caste—not as having any intrinsic power as a caste, but that on the whole their independence of private ambitions and vulgar prejudices rendered them more grateful to the peoples at large than if they had been raised from the ranks. The Chinese as a nation are in fact well disposed towards the régime, being well assured that they have the real power in their own hands; and are unwilling to risk the chance of losing the substance in vain struggles after an ideal. For a like reason they have shown little or no disposition to interfere in the succession, conceiving that whoever followed, they could make their influence felt more strongly by coincidence than by assisting in any movement to place an unknown pretender on the Throne. It was thus that the entire Empire, though loyal to the late EMPEROR, preferred to

permit affairs to take their course, convinced that the Government of the late DOWAGER REGENT could be for but a little time; and that under her successor the business of the nation would compel improvement.

There is little doubt that the new Regency is really desirous of introducing reforms, and that the REGENT is quite alive to the fact that of all others currency reform is the most pressing; there is also equally little doubt that he has found powerful opposition to all his schemes of amendment in the reactionary party. Under the régime of the late EMPRESS DOWAGER T'SE HI, these abuses had reached a height hitherto unknown even in China, and a group of corrupt statesmen had congregated round the Throne. As China found that, do what she could, she could not get rid of what seemed to the reactionaries about the Palace the incubus of Foreign intercourse, so likewise she found that the expenses of the Court were growing out of all measure. Foreign countries sent their legations to Peking, and, whether Peking liked it or not, it had to follow the fashion and send its representatives abroad. The result of the war with Japan indicated that the entire military system of China was wrong from the beginning to the end, and that a complete change was necessary. But all these things cost money, and there was no constitutional system by which revenue could be raised. The old system of requisitions was found impractical; provincial taxation was in as chaotic a state as that to the Court, and the only device that could be thought of was to levy vails on all aspirants of office, who were subsequently set free on the provinces without check of any sort. The result was somewhat similar to the abuses which in the long run brought about the fall of the Roman Empire. Privately the late DOWAGER T'SE HI was extravagant and avaricious, and the creatures of her Court, taking example from their mistress, took advantage of these irregular levies to enrich themselves. The evil example spread to the provinces, and each provincial capital became a duplicate of Peking. Such was the Augean stable that the new Regency found called upon to cleanse. Everyone of the Imperial Boards was affected, and practically the REGENT found himself, when he spoke of reform, completely isolated. Here was no distinction between Manchu and Chinese; all alike were corrupt, and all were directly interested in the continuance of the old abuses. It is true there has been growing up in China amongst the younger statesmen a class of men who recognised the necessity of reform and who have been lending valuable assistance; amongst the older statesmen, too, are a few, amongst whom the VICEROY of the LIANG HU takes a prominent place, who, honest themselves, have preferred to lead a life of comparative poverty to enriching themselves at the expense of their country; but such men are comparatively rare, and find themselves sadly hampered in turn by those with whom they are compelled to associate. The majority find it easier to follow in the crowd. A few there are who take a more active part, and whose influence is exerted in checking all reform; some probably from honest motives, believing that what has existed for so many centuries cannot be wrong, but others from the sordid motive that reform implies the contraction of their illicit gains, and is a thing to be opposed at all points. It is unfortunately at the moment the case that it is this latter class, the reactionaries, who fear the loss of their private gains through the new proposals of an amended system of imperial finance, who are most in evidence;

and these it is who are prepared to go any lengths rather than see the introduction of reforms which would do away with the abuses on which they have been battenning.

The most glaring of these abuses, though by no means the only one, is the growth of the system of *Likin*, whose operations now extend from one extremity to the other of the Empire. Of its evils in connection with the railways we have but the other day spoken, but the evil does not end here: it penetrates the whole body politic. Not only does it strangle the entire trade of the Empire, but it is instrumental in saddling the country with an army of uncontrolled tax collectors who are numbered in each province by many thousands, and who make every petty mercantile transaction, no matter how small, the occasion of levying a tax. Even worse than the tax itself in sapping the roots of prosperity is the method of its collection. There is no tariff, but each man collects according to his own discretion, the only check being the ability of the payer to meet his demands. Such a system dies hard from its very nature, yet we wonder how it is that the Government does not at once put it down, and smile at the apparently innocent manner in which the Government, put to its wits' ends, tries to make it a subject of bargaining in its turn with the foreign Powers. As a fact, the Government, had it all the will, is no more able to abolish the system, which lives on in open defiance of all law and order, imperial or provincial, than it can succeed in abolishing by edict the allied vice of opium smoking. In both cases there are too many vested interests concerned in keeping up the old abuses, to render the rooting of them out a task within the powers of the present administration. We have every respect for the present REGENT, PRINCE CHUN; but the task that he has essayed needs the strength of will and the power of a HERCULES to accomplish successfully, and it is no fault of his that nature has not endued him with a sufficient amount of either to carry the campaign to a successful issue. Politicians of the milk-and-water school were but the other day glorying over what they called "the bloodless Revolution in Turkey." Nature does not proceed in this manner when revolution has become necessary, and no revolution worthy the name has been carried out with rose water. China offers no exception to the rule; nor is the coming revolution one of Manchu and Chinese; it is one of the entire nation. Come it will, whether it be led by the wise councils of a strong Government, or whether, like the Taiping Rebellion, it springs from the sufferings of an outraged nation; in neither case will it be bloodless, but in the latter it will entail the slaughter of an entire generation, and the devastation of an empire.

SHIPPING "RINGS."

(Daily Press, June 30th.)

The Reports of the Royal Commission on Shipping "Rings" (a lengthy summary of which appeared in our Monday's issue) are naturally of considerable interest to the mercantile communities in the Far East. This Commission was appointed nearly two years ago to inquire into the operations of the Shipping "Rings" or Conferences generally, more especially into the system of deferred rebates, and to report whether such operations had caused or were likely to cause injury to British or Colonial trade, and, if so, what remedial action, if any, should be taken by legislation or otherwise. The result of these labours is two elaborate Reports—Majority and Minority Reports—which do little more than give to the world a

description of the operations of the "rings," and suggest systems of control, short of legislation, to check the admitted disadvantages which are inherent in monopolies of all kinds. Even the Majority could not avoid the conclusion that a Shipping Conference making use of a system of deferred rebates does possess, so far as the shipper of general merchandise is concerned, a limited monopoly; but they considered that where a regular and organised service is required, the Conference system, fortified by some tie upon the shipper, is, as a general rule, necessary. They attribute to the system the advantages "which are usually associated with monopoly, viz. organisation, economy in production, avoidance of wasteful competition owing to duplication &c.," but they are constrained to mention that the system also has its disadvantages, which they do not specify but refer to as "those which are usually inseparable from a monopoly not subject to control." The Majority adopt as their main recommendation the suggestion that "all that is required to check abuses of the Conference system is that the shippers and merchants in a given trade should form themselves into an association, so that they might be able to present a united front to the Conference when any controversy arises." Verily, the mountain in labour has brought forth a mouse! Substantially such associations have existed, and in the very nature of the circumstances, must always exist. The Minority Report differs from the Majority Report in that it dissents from the findings of the former as to the advantages claimed for the Shipping Conference and the deferred rebate system. The Commissioners who form the minority say that the Majority Report "overrates such advantages, erroneously attributes some of them to that system and does not give sufficient weight to the disadvantages resulting therefrom or to the dangers incident to the system." Among the conclusions at which the Minority arrive are these: that the Conference system was introduced in the first instance with the object of raising rates or preventing their fall, and diminishing competition; that it has been successful in raising or keeping up rates; that the public have, as a rule, to pay higher rates of freight than they would pay in the open market; that the system has been injurious to "tramps," the strongest element in the British mercantile marine; and it leads, as to them, to waste and to higher rates of freight; and they declare also that there is no evidence that the system has appreciably increased regularity of sailing or greatly improved the quality of steamers, "but it has tended to bring about equality and stability of rates." Though the Minority thus flatly declares against the results arising out of the Shipping Conference they are not prepared at present to recommend legislation on the lines of the Sherman Act, and consider that any legislation short of that would be ineffectual. Consequently their recommendations are much on the lines of the Majority Report, but with largely increased powers to the Board of Trade ensuring the results of official inquiries being promptly brought to the notice of Parliament. In short, the Minority rely strongly on the effect of full publicity, which has not hitherto existed, as to the working of the Conferences. Sir DAVID BARBOUR, one of the Commissioners, it is interesting to note, is of opinion that no check could be applied sufficient to protect the public interests without at the same time involving such an amount of interference with the business of the shipowners as to make the continuance of the Rings impossible, and that is a view which must force

itself strongly on whoever reads the recommendations which the Commissioners have made. It now remains for the Government to take some action on these Reports, and the publication of the regulations which must result from the presentation of these Reports will be awaited with eager interest in shipping and mercantile circles.

It is of interest to note in this connection that final judgment has quite recently been rendered in the United States Circuit Court in an action started six years ago against the South African "Shipping Ring" by a firm of exporters who shipped goods by outside steamers as well as by those of the "Ring," and consequently disqualified themselves to claim deferred commission in respect of their shipments by "Conference" steamers. They sued the lines concerned for damages sustained, claiming that they had been deprived of \$5,560. The final court of appeal has now held that the Conference system is in restraint of competition in foreign commerce and contravenes the Federal Anti-Trust Statute, and under section 7 of that statute the plaintiffs are entitled to recover treble the damages sustained. A verdict was given in their favour for \$25,180. We cite this judgment as adding force to the finding in the Minority Report that the Conference system "gives a country, such as the United States, in which the system is illegal, an advantage as compared with the United Kingdom."

MISSIONARIES OF EMPIRE.

(Daily Press, July 1st.)

It the Imperial Press Conference, concluded rather more than a week ago, has accomplished nothing more than the concentration of thought upon the difficult problem of imperial defence, it has justified its being. But it has done more. It has roused the Mother Country and the Colonies to a greater sense of their mutual obligations. It has thrilled the whole Empire with a patriotic fervour, perhaps felt just as keenly before, but what is of even greater value, it has helped to a better understanding between the people of the United Kingdom, and people of the Dominions over the seas. The Conference was no ordinary gathering of newspaper men met to discuss matters affecting their own interest. It was an assembly unique in the annals of Empire. The Conference was Imperial. Its considerations were questions of Empire, questions of policy, questions of developing trade, and kindred considerations. And its discussion and conclusions were perhaps of even greater weight than if its members had been representative politicians, because, without belittling the profession of the politician, it may be said that he has not the same opportunities for gauging public opinion and for forming it as the journalist. That so many of these men should be brought to the seat of Empire and enabled to revive associations which naturally grow dim with the passing years, enabled to see the difficulties which harass the Home Government, enabled to understand what could only be obscure and inappreciable from the distance of their colonial homes, is without doubt an epoch in the history of empire, and the value of its results cannot be minimised. All these men, having their patriotism stirred, having arrived at a better understanding themselves and ready therefore to promote a better feeling between the Mother Country and the Colonies, and having realised the dangers which beset the Empire, will return to their homes with a new light, with a new

gospel. In other words, they will be Missionaries of Empire. With so many voices breathing expressions of affection, with so many pens writing the same story of imperial and colonial obligations, and with so many orators preaching the same gospel of mutual goodwill, it follows that the Empire should enter on a new era, that, instead of the Mother Country regarding the Colonies as so many encumbrances, she will recognise in them so many supports, and become proud of their growing strength and maturity, and the Colonies, instead of regarding the Homeland as having no interests in them beyond the financial, will cultivate a better feeling which should result in greater happiness, not because of the agreeable sentimental relationships which have been established but because of the sound business associations which have been developed and which contribute in no little degree to the happy result attained. We do not exaggerate the power of the Press when we suggest these eminently satisfactory results. It has only to be stated to evoke acknowledgment that the Press exercises a great influence in such questions as commercial policy and organisation for defence. These are now the very kernel of Imperial politics, and the better those who form opinion on them understand them and each other, whether they be statesmen or journalists, or both, the more rapid and sure must be the advance towards that co-operation on which the future of the Empire depends. While we do not minimise but rather emphasise the power of the Press in this direction, we must admit that it has another function. Its *raison d'être* is not the advocacy of policies, but the provision of authentic news. Hardly a week passes without some instance of the danger and difficulties to which the limitations of our present news services expose imperial statesmen, and in advocating and perhaps securing a cheaper service of cablegrams the Press of the Empire show that they appreciate the necessity for a greater knowledge and better understanding between the Mother Country and Dominion and Colony and Dependency. The opinion that all honest journalistic enterprise is vain which is not directed before all things to the provision of sound and accurate news, which we endorse, and if the starting point of a wider and sounder system of Imperial intelligence be traced to the Conference its place in history will be a proud one indeed.

ON THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY.

(Daily Press, 2nd July.)

It is somewhere about sixty years ago that TENNYSON wrote "Locksley Hall," in which the following lines occur:—

Men, my brothers, men the workers, ever
reaping something new;
That which they have done but earnest of
the things that they shall do;
For I dipt into the future, far as human
eye could see
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder
that would be;
Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies
of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping
down with costly bales.
Heard the heavens fill with shouting and
there rain'd a ghastly dew
From the nations' airy navies grappling
in the central blue.

As far back as 1800 experiments in artificial flight were made in England, but the prophetic lines we have quoted were apparently written before the first flying machine had been brought to public notice, for "Locksley Hall" was published in

1842, while the first flying machine was invented, according to the reference books, in 1843. Its end, we need scarcely add, was—pieces! But, as a famous French writer has told us, in the lexicon of youth which fate reserves for a bright manhood, there is no such word as Fail. "Where there's a will there's a way," and TENNYSON evidently shared and was inspired by the eager optimism of the few who were in those early days tackling the problem of aerial flight. It was not, however, till twenty years later that the subject began to engage the serious attention of scientific men. The Aeronautical Society of Great Britain was founded by the Duke of ARGYLE and others in 1866, and in the years that followed the motion of birds in relation to aeronautics was much discussed. In England, in Germany, and in the United States during the past sixty years, men have been working at the problem with dogged perseverance and firm faith in ultimate triumph—a faith which remained unshaken by a long succession of disappointments and defeats, to be at length justified in the past two years by the wonderful achievements of Count ZEPPELIN and the brothers WRIGHT—achievements which have compelled the entire world to recognise that the airship is destined to be of practical use in the world. It will doubtless be a long time yet before airships take the place of steamships—a long time before we shall see airships as in the poet's vision, "dropping down with costly bales" at the world's centres of commerce; but when we read in the Home papers of preparations being made for regular airship services between Zurich and Lucerne, and between Paris and London, we are constrained to recognise that the poet's dream is beginning to materialise.

It will be noticed that TENNYSON has given first place to the commercial use of the airship, but in the materialisation of the vision it seems that the military uses of the airship are claiming first attention. Except, however, for the purposes of observation in war, the airship with its present limitations is of little use when the combatants in the field are on a fairly equal footing as regards equipment in the scientific instruments of war. We have been hearing much of the value of the airship capable of being employed to drop explosives into an enemy's territory, but no sooner was this idea suggested than the scientific spirit of the age was shown in the production of plans to combat this new danger. We read of armoured automobiles fitted with Hotchkiss guns so mounted as to be easily trained on an airship, which it appears must come within a vertical distance of not more than 5,000 feet, and must be stationary for a time to direct its missiles. Tests with the means of destroying such airships are reported to have been carried out in Germany with satisfactory results. If, then, this use of the airship is rendered impossible or unsafe, and these "airy navies" are compelled to sail in higher altitudes, they will have to be reached by other ships, and some of us therefore may still live to read in our daily papers descriptions by Special War Correspondents of "airy navies grappling in the central blue."

The airship is yet in its infancy; much yet remains to be done to give the world confidence in its employment for purposes other than observation in time of war. Count ZEPPELIN's recent voyage of nearly a thousand miles continuous travelling was at once a triumph and a disaster, for not only did the strength of a contrary wind compel him to turn back when within seventy miles of his goal, but in descending in order to obtain a fresh supply of fuel the

ship was practically wrecked by coming in contact with a tree. In this scientific age we may reasonably hope that constant effort will eventuate in the discovery of more reliable steering gear, if not in improvements in the structure of the ship itself, which will save these machines from such disasters, but we cannot so confidently anticipate that such ships will be made to "steer through the gale." Yet, in face of the achievements of recent years, who now will dare affirm that the employment of the airship for commercial purposes is destined ever to remain an idle dream? Who thought sixty years ago when TENNYSON published "Locksley Hall" that before the first decade of the Twentieth Century is out we should have airships navigated in "the central blue" for a thousand miles; that passenger services in airships would be instituted; and that the military department of almost every nation in the world would be regarding the airship as an indispensable item in the equipment of an army? Who dreamt that we should be able to communicate for thousands of miles across the ocean by wireless telegraphy? Truly, it's a wonderful age we live in, and the Poet TENNYSON as a prophet will be no longer without honour in his own country.

THE CHINESE POST OFFICE.

(Daily Press, 3rd July.)

The Annual Reports on the working of the Chinese Imperial Post Office are records of marvellous progress. Mr. PIRY, the Postal Secretary, to whom the present organisation of the Chinese Post Office is mainly due, begins his Report for the year 1908 with the statement that "the predominating feature of the year under review has been a solid and substantial increase in every branch of postal work." He tells us that the total number of establishments has been raised from 2,803 to 3,493; postal articles—letters, postcards, newspapers, books and samples—which for 1907 totalled 168 millions, have reached 252 millions—a striking advance, which, as he says, speaks well of future possibilities. Parcels have increased from 1,920,000 to 2,455,000, with a corresponding increase in weight and in value, and it is pointed out that this large advance is the more notable having regard to the recent rule for the compulsory insurance of parcels of the value of \$30 or over. We further learn from the Report that competition with native agencies may even be said to have virtually ceased, victory remaining for the national Post Office; "for it is now demonstrated that *min-chü* will only continue to flourish at places that have not yet been tapped by the Post Office, or in the carriage of bullion, sycee, &c., which it does not care to compete for; they, too, recognise the new order of things and begin to lean on the Post Office, using its lines for the transmission of their clubbed packages." The operations of the Chinese Imperial Post Office are now carried on over roughly 87,000 miles, the total increase in length during the past year amounting to some 9,000 miles. Transmission over the courier lines has been greatly accelerated; railway communications have developed in several directions; and in all districts new postal establishments have been planted, more particularly so, in the Northern and Yangtze districts. A map accompanies the Report illustrating the ramifications of the service and indicating the location of the 3,493 postal establishments. The difficulty of the hour, Mr. PIRY says, is to devise measures to cope with this enormous development. The methods are good, the courier lines reliable and numerous, but there is a general cry for office accommoda-

tion and space. Many improvements are wanted in buildings, which should be more spacious, more advantageously located, and of better appearance in the great cities of the interior, but it is hoped, the Secretary says, that the present year will afford the means to attain these ends. With such a record of development as we have outlined it naturally follows that the revenue itself shows considerable advance, and the Report tells us that it is in better proportion, as development increases from year to year, with the working expenses; and this notwithstanding the swelling of the latter, due to various improvements introduced in general organisation and a general rise of the salaries of the native staff last September. No financial statement is published with the Report, but though we are told that the revenue shows considerable advance, the reader must not run away with the idea that receipts cover expenditure. Mr. HIPPLESLEY, who wrote the Report for 1907, mentioned that it was not till thirty years after the postal service had come into general operation in India that an annual equilibrium between receipts and expenditure was secured. The inference to be drawn from this is that many years are likely to pass yet before the Chinese postal service becomes self-supporting. In the meantime, funds must be specially contributed by the Government to supplement the receipts, and the Service must continue to receive the assistance which has heretofore been gratuitously rendered by the Maritime Customs, the money value of which Mr. HIPPLESLEY estimated at three-quarters of a million of Mexican dollars. Great as the development of the business of the Chinese Post Office has been, it is yet relatively very small having regard to the population. In the 1907 Report a tabular statement was published showing the density of population and number of letters sent by each thousand of the inhabitants in each province. This table showed that in no province in the Empire does each inhabitant send one letter a year. It has been computed that in the United Kingdom each person writes 78 letters a year, in the United States 67, in Germany 55, in Denmark 41, in Austria 38, in Holland 31, in Belgium 29, in France and Sweden 26 and in Norway 20. The interesting tabular statement to which reference has been made is omitted from the Report for 1908, perhaps because it affords no good basis for making such deductions as these, as in the first place the census of the population cannot be accepted as accurate, and secondly because while native postal hongs and agencies are carrying on operations, independently of the post office, it is impossible to discover with approximate accuracy how the Chinese nation compares with others in the matter of letter-writing. But each year sees the national Post Office getting the business more and more into its own hands. Compulsion and the monopoly of postal transmission by the Government institution have been considered not only difficult to apply but impolitic, and the Imperial Post was driven to invite them to co-operate. Statistics now show that more than half of the existing agencies have been registered, and as the enormous increase of letters in clubbed packets carried by the Imperial Service for these agencies last year clearly shows, they are now catering for the Post Office, and usefully supplement it, for the collecting and delivering of local correspondence. Mr. PIRY says that in many centres Chinese communities are so large that it will take years before all local requirements can be answered by adequate methods on the part of the official establish-

ment. But it is only a question of time and development before the national institution wins the entire monopoly, and that this result is destined to be accomplished without resort to compulsory measures is eloquent testimony to the efficiency and reliability of the service.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

The *cause célèbre* is practically concluded. The case which has occupied the time of our two judges for nine days, which has filled more columns in the newspapers than any recent happening, and which has provided abundant food for gossip, is almost at an end—only the decision to be given. Whatever happens, we can't get away from the feeling of regret that it should have been brought into court and given the publicity that it has. The effect is unfortunate from the point of view of the white population.

The words "white population" bring to mind the ever present difficulty of employing terms and names which will describe the non-Chinese who, for better or worse, have made their home in the East and have assisted to develop trade in this part of the world. The members of the Legislative Council wrestled with the problem on Thursday, but, after a "short bout," they had to admit themselves beaten and fall back on a word which is neither descriptive nor comprehensive, but which has the sanction of "old custom."

I don't know that I can assist towards a solution of the difficulty, but I may be permitted to comment on some of the suggestions made at the meeting. Obviously the word "European" is not the best to describe what is intended. "Occidental" is perhaps more comprehensive and therefore more correct, but it does not come so trippingly off the tongue, though I can imagine it would not apply to Australians, New Zealanders or South Africans. Sir Henry Berkeley sought to justify the word "European," even when applied to Americans, by stating that the Americans came from Europe, but Sir Henry forgets the large proportion of the population of that large country who came from a different continent entirely. To describe them as European would be absurd. It has always seemed to me that to apply the word "European" where an American is concerned is practically as insulting as to refer to a Scotsman as an Englishman.

It is all very well to talk of descent, to say that children born here of European parents are not Chinese, but that cannot hold good for centuries. If that were so some of us from Britain might still have to describe ourselves as Angles, Jutes, Danes, Norseman, Normans, or Britons (the ancient type), because, according to the theory enunciated, race or nationality persists for quite a long time. But history does not bear this out. The grandfather of Robert the Bruce was a Norman baron, but who would dare to suggest that Scotia's hero was other than a Scotsman? More modern is the case of the House of Hanover, George the First of Britain was a German. So was his son. Not so George the Third. It was his proud boast when he opened his first Parliament that he was born a Briton. While I am prepared to admit that children born in Hongkong of European parents are European, I don't know how far it would be true to say that their children's children are entitled to be known as European.

In this connection I quote the following story from a home paper: Miss Haldane (sister of the Secretary for War) mentioned at the meeting of the Liberal Social Council that she had been doing her best of late to entertain some German visitors. In the case of one gentleman whom she addressed in her best German she was rather surprised to find he was not of the nationality she had imagined, for turning to her, he said, "I am a Scotchman, and my name's Thomson."

Typhoon talk and typhoon preparations descended on us rather early this year. It is remarkable that the signals should have been hoisted in the merry month of June, but fortunately the dread visitor did not come our way. Reminiscences of September, 1906, were on tap, however.

Tired of waiting for supplies from India, the Sanitary Department have started breeding their own cats. I have much pleasure in congratulating the Sanitary Board office cat which, I am informed, used to make itself at home on the journalistic bench, on giving birth to triplets. I am also pleased to be able to state that mother and little ones are doing well. It is to be hoped that no energetic member of the Board will ask any awkward questions, such as: Has the increase on the cat staff been authorised? If so, by whom? Has the Government given authority to the cat without first consulting the Board? Are they (the cat and catlets) washed regularly by or with "Jeyes"? Have the expenses that will accrue been provided for in next year's estimates? If, in view of the proposed scheme of retrenchment, the Board recommend that the cat be reprimanded for being the cause of extra expense at a time when economy is being preached from every departmental pulpit? Are the Board to be allowed the privilege of exhibiting the family at the forthcoming show, and if so are they all entitled to a share of the prize? The office boy suggests razzle-dazzle or poker dice for the lot.

The furor occasioned at home over the alleged preferential treatment accorded a French dressmaker by the wife of the Prime Minister, reminds me that there is a pushful person from La belle France who is attempting business in quite a new direction in Hongkong. The lady carries a lot of lace—for sale, not merely for show and on obtaining the *entrée* to a house she not only fascinates the lady of the house with her display but throws a spell on her, as it were, by the names of those in *la haute société* with which she conjures. Of course, they have all bought elaborate costumes at fancy prices. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't. Hongkongites have already tumbled to her little ruse, and I have no doubt that madame will try pastures new when she realises this.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

On Monday afternoon a passenger on the Yaumati ferryboat jumped overboard and was drowned.

Articles reported lost to the police aggregated last year the value of \$19,043. The articles recovered were valued at \$6,898.58.

A letter dated the 9th inst. from London via the Siberian route was delivered last week in Hongkong, 20 days in transit.

Mr. A. Seth, who has recently retired from the office of Registrar of the Supreme Court, leaves for a holiday at home to-day.

The Douglas Steamship Co. announces a reduction of 20 per cent. on first class fares to Foochow during the months of July, August and September.

Eighteen deportees from the Dutch East Indies, who arrived here a week ago, are still in the colony, as instructions have not been received as to where they are to be sent.

One of the partners of the Sun Wo carpenter shop in Hing Loong Street reports that between the 1st May and the 28th June the accountant collected \$500 due to the firm from different shops and absconded.

A Chinese woman, who travelled from Hoihow to Hongkong on the steamer *Carl Diederichsen*, informs the police here that on the way she was robbed of \$242, which represented all her savings at Hoihow for a number of years.

Early on June 25th an Indian constable found a man lying in Des Voeux Road with a fractured thigh and a broken jaw bone. He told the constable that he had been attacked by six men with iron bars, but when taken to the Central Police Station he admitted that his injuries had been received by attempting to climb a down pipe.

For damaging a beacon light near Yaumati by running his junk into it, Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on June 25 ordered a seaman to pay \$145, the estimated amount of the damage.

The Peak Tramway Ordinance is dead. The Bill which has been before the Legislative Council for some time to authorise the construction of a tramway to the Peak was on the 1st inst. withdrawn.

By the Stamp Ordinance which passed its second reading and went through the committee stage at the Legislative Council yesterday it will be necessary after the first of January next to affix a five cent stamp to all receipts for amounts over ten dollars.

Mr. S. A. Seth, secretary of the Dairy Farm Company, left for home by the "Hirano Maru." On Wednesday he was the recipient of a handsome dressing case and other articles presented in recognition of his valuable services as treasurer to the Victoria Recreation Club.

The manager of the Kwong Wo Loong firm, 356, Queen's Road Central, has informed the police that he has received private telegrams from Shanghai intimating that a man named Ng Pak Tong has embezzled \$43,000 and absconded. He suspects that the man has come to Hongkong.

Sunday's news from Macao was that the rickshaw strike at Macao is still maintained, to the great inconvenience of the general public. Our Macao correspondent mentions that, by inadvertence, he wrote that the licence fee, charged rickshaws was \$30 per quarter; it should have been per annum.

Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on July 1st investigated a charge of murder preferred against a Chinese from Yaumati. It appeared that a fortnight ago a quarrel took place at a brothel at Yaumati and one man was stabbed in the hip. He went away without complaint, but a few days later he died from blood poisoning and the man who inflicted the wound was arrested and charged.

According to the report of the Captain Superintendent of Police, there was a decrease in the number of cases reported to the police last year as compared with the previous year. There was, however, an increase in the number of murders, robberies, larcenies from the dwelling, and kidnapping cases, but fortunately this still leaves a decrease of 64 in the number of serious offences.

Comment has often been made of the facilities to thieves afforded by the water pipes in front of houses. Another instance was reported on June 3th when a man was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour for stealing property valued at \$50 from 13, Gage Street. He gained an entrance by means of the down water pipe, but in descending he had the misfortune to fall to the ground and break his arm, so that he was an easy capture for the police.

The total revenue collected by the Harbour Department during the year was \$357,768.52, as against \$348,300.10 in the previous year, showing an increase of \$9,468.42. There was a decrease of \$413.32 on light dues, and \$4,638.11 in fees of court and office, but licences and internal revenue showed the substantial increase of \$14,471.65, while there was an increase of \$48.20 on miscellaneous receipts.

An abnormality was taken to the Tungwah Hospital on June 26th, in the shape of a newly-born infant with two heads. The heads were joined together on one body, but each head had mouth, nose and a pair of eyes. There was only one pair of ears, however, one being on the side of each head. The child, which was given birth to by a Chinese mother, is dead.

At the Magistracy on July 1st a Chinese formerly in the employ of Mr. S. B. Ross, in the New Territory, was committed to prison on two charges of obtaining money by false pretences. The second charge was that he went to the sisters of the houseboy employed by Mr. J. R. Wood and stated that he had been arrested for gambling and that money was needed to have him liberated on bail. One sister having no money gave him three gold rings. Prisoner was sentenced to three months' imprisonment on each charge and also to be exposed in the stocks for six hours.

Friction has arisen between a number of Chinese exporters in Hongkong and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company over a notice in the latter office which was offensive to the Chinese and over alleged ill-treatment of Chinese passengers. A boycott was threatened, if not actually commenced, but the matters at issue are likely to be satisfactorily arranged.

It is interesting to note from the report of the Captain Superintendent of Police that 1,173 rickshaws were licensed in Hongkong during 1908, which number has since been reduced by 175. In Quarry Bay there are 50 licensed rickshaws and 250 in Kowloon. Chairs to the number of 589 were licensed in Hongkong and 60 in the Hill district. Licences were issued last year for 25 private vehicles, including five motor cars, while 1,118 truck licences were also issued. Drivers and bearers licenses to the number of 17,350 were issued. As many as 1,760 dogs were licensed last year.

We regret to receive news of the death in Manila, of Mr. C. Evans Dale, who had been in the employ of the *Daily Press* Office as accountant for about twelve months and was returning to his home in Australia. Just before he left Hongkong Mr. Dale was suffering from fever and it was thought the sea voyage would quickly prove beneficial. He appears to have become seriously ill on the voyage and was put ashore at Manila from the s.s. *Prinz Waldemar*, on the 21st inst., being taken to St. Paul's Hospital, where he died at an early hour the following morning. As the cause of death was not clearly ascertainable an autopsy was to be held and the body was to receive Christian burial at St. Pedro Cemetery on the 23rd inst.

A quintette of seamen from the steamer *Orestes* could not raise fifteen cents each at the Magistracy. The five men, William Daly, William McDonough, Gordon Mathieson, John McEwen and John Moore, had entered rickshaws at the Kowloon ferry wharf. They wished to go to a certain godown, but not knowing where it was told the coolies to go to Hunghom. When they found themselves near the Docks they got out of the rickshaws and refused to pay hire. Two of them were also alleged to have assaulted two of the coolies. The evidence of the coolies was not satisfactory and His Worship ordered the defendants to pay fifteen cents each. "Have you sufficient money to pay?" he asked. "No money on either of them," replied Sergt. Caygill. His Worship—"Is there anybody who will pay this?" Sergt. Caygill said there was a man in court who would pay, and the men were discharged.

THE CANTON SELF-GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

THE "FATSHAN" AFFAIR.

Our Canton correspondent writes:—The Self-Government Association, having received no reply to the letter addressed to the Portuguese Consul on the 17th June, held another meeting at the Wah Lum Temple yesterday (June 29th) to discuss what further steps should be taken in the matter. Thousands of people attended the meeting. Chan Chung Kwiu was invited to take the chair and Chan Wai Po was elected Vice-Chairman. The proceedings opened with short speeches by the Vice-Chairman, Messrs. Woo Shum Ching, Ng Koon Ting, and Tam Shum Po, commenting on the "unreasonable and uncivilized attitude of the Portuguese Consul in connection with the *Fatshan* case, and also on "the high-handed measures" taken by the Portuguese in the appropriation of certain places near Macao which were Chinese territory. Lo Shew Ngo, Secretary of the Association, read the letter addressed to the Portuguese Consul on the 17th June, after which the Chairman rose and addressed the audience. He said that the meeting was convened to discuss and obtain the opinion of the members of the Association as to what steps should be taken on three subjects. He would deal with each of the subjects separately and would ask them at the conclusion of his speech to give their opinions as to what measures of retaliation they should adopt. I do not propose to give a full report of the Chairman's speech, as it would take up too much space in your valuable columns, but only give you the

main points of the speech in regard to each subject and the decision of the meeting.

First, with regard to the *Fatshan* case the Chairman said they were all aware that it had been conclusively proved that Noronha kicked a man to death on board that steamer, and also how he had ill-treated Chinese passengers. It was also clearly shown in the case how careless the Captain was and how he had endeavoured to protect Noronha. The Portuguese Consul had not only refused to hold a fresh joint investigation into the matter, but had made all kinds of false accusations against the Society in connection with this affair. A letter had been addressed to the Portuguese Consul requesting him to substantiate the statements made by him within three days, but so far he had not been able to find words to reply to the letter. This alone showed clearly that he regretted having made those statements. The Chairman said redress should be obtained for the above grievances and he asked them to consider what steps should be taken.

The audience answered that the Association should address another letter to the Consul giving him further time to reply, and if no answer is received on due date the Association should inform their brethren both in China and abroad as to what had happened. The Association should also send a telegram to the Central Government requesting them "not to recognise the Portuguese Consul as an administrator endowed with reason," and also requesting that redress be obtained in this matter.

BOYCOTTING MACAO.

The Chairman's second topic was that prostitution, gambling and opium-smoking are evils which the people of any self-governing nation should interfere with. Macao, he went on to say, was one of the principal places where pirates and robbers find refuge, and it was also a resort for prostitution, gambling and opium-smoking. Sometime ago the members of this Association warned their brethren to restrain their younger brothers and sons from plunging into these evil habits and to prohibit them from furtively going over to Macao to gamble and smoke opium; thus ruining their reputation and injuring their health. Now that the Macao boundary was being threshed out, measures should be taken to protect the Chinese people from being beaten and disgraced by the Portuguese.

The audience was asked by the Chairman to suggest means of protection, etc. They answered that a resolution should be passed warning people not to go to Macao to gamble. They declared it to be true that the Portuguese people have insulted and beaten the Chinese people in a most disgraceful manner: such things were often heard of. The Association should at once extensively distribute circulars and also delegate large numbers of deputies to proceed up-country to give lectures and make public speeches exhorting the public to refrain from going to Macao.

Then the Macao boundary question was dealt with by the Chairman. There was no doubt, he said, the old boundary line of the Macao Concession was still in existence. It was only in the 13th year of Kwong Shui that the Portuguese encroached on Chinese territory. This fact was known to both foreigners and Chinese. The Portuguese had infringed the Treaty and the Chinese must protect their rights.

Yeong Yew Tong rose to reply on behalf of the audience. He said in this matter they were all agreed upon sending telegrams to the Chinese people both in China and abroad to be firm in the maintenance of their rights. And also that deputies should proceed up-country and abroad to get the merchants affix their chops to a document protesting against the arbitrary measures taken by the Portuguese people in annexing certain Chinese territories by force, thus infringing the Treaty rights. They must guard their doors against aggression and cease to have any intercourse with such people.

This declaration was received with great applause. This ended the meeting and after partaking of refreshments the people dispersed.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

24th June.

THE CANTON CEMENT FACTORY.

Literary Chancellor Shum, who is President of the Kwong Tung Government Cement Factory of Canton, has instructed Lau Taotai, Managing Director of the Cement Factory, to issue a notice announcing that the Factory was established by the Government for the purpose of obtaining funds from the proceeds of sale of the cement and bricks manufactured by the concern, for education purposes, and asking merchants to purchase and use the products of the factory, also to warn the public that the imitation of the factory's trade mark is an offence punishable according to the laws against forgery.

DRAGON BOAT CAPSIZED.

This year the Dragon Festival here was marred by the capsizing of a large dragon boat in deep water in front of the Shameen Bund, resulting in the loss of many lives. There were 90 men in the boat; about 75 of them were saved and the rest were drowned. It is reported that yesterday the River Police recovered eight dead bodies. The accident was caused by the waves from a passing steam-launch swamping the dragon boat.

POSTAL REGULATIONS.

The Imperial Chinese Postal Commissioner of Canton has issued a notification containing the following new regulations:—

1. No railway passengers, etc., will be allowed to carry letters or parcels which ought to be sent through the Post Office.
2. All letters or other postal matter discovered on the train or about to be placed on the train without having passed through the Post Office will hereafter be seized by officers of the Post Office.
3. All letters and postal matter seized by the officers of the Post Office shall be detained and will only be released upon payment of the proper fines.
4. If employees of the railways are discovered infringing the above regulations the matter will be reported to the authorities of the Railway Bureau and they will be either fined or dismissed from service.

CHINA'S REFORMED ARMY.

It has become a common practice amongst the soldiers of the Reformed Army who are granted leave of absence to return to the Army one or two months after the expiration of their furlough, thus causing great annoyance and inconvenience in the Army. In order to put a stop to such conduct the Military Authorities have recently adopted a new regulation to the effect that soldiers exceeding their leave of absence beyond one week will have their wages stopped and be dismissed from the service; besides which they also will be punished in accordance with the regulations referring to deserters.

June 26th.

APPLICATION FOR EXECUTION OF ELEVEN CONVICTS WHO WERE RECAPTURED.

The inquiry into the circumstances which led to the escape of prisoners in the Shun Tak Prison was closed yesterday. A full report of the investigation has been forwarded to His Excellency Viceroy Chang by Shun Shui Chung, acting magistrate of Shun Tak. The report states that forty prisoners were recaptured and according to the law they should all be decapitated. Twenty-nine of them have been convicted for minor offences and did not take part in the conspiracy but were induced to escape by the ringleaders. Under these circumstances the Magistrate has recommended them for exemption from capital punishment. The Magistrate applied to His Excellency the Viceroy for permission to execute the remaining 11 prisoners who actually took part in the conspiracy.

A VISITING CONSUL-GENERAL.

Comm. Z. Volpicelli, Italian Consul-General for Kwangtung, Kwangsi and Fokien Provinces, has been here for some time. From inquiries made, I learn that he has been very busy over a case in which an Italian subject named Fogliano was swindled by a Chinese railway contractor for a very large sum of money.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

It is reported that the Board of Posts and Communications has sent a telegram to the Canton-Hankow Railway Company stating that the necessary funds for the construction of the Hupeh and Hunan sections of the Canton-Hankow Railway have been raised and the loan contract executed. The cablegram urges the Company to hasten the construction of their section of the line and states that if there should be any further delay the Central Government will take over the concern and itself construct the line.

MURDER OF A FOREIGNER.

Recently, a most preposterous rumour was spread by the people in the district of Tsang Sheng that some foreigners have arrived in the district to extract the souls of children. On the 15th inst. a boy was found missing in the Ma Cha village, which is inhabited by a large clan all bearing the same surname. A foreigner happened to pass through the village on that day. The villagers on seeing the foreigner said he was the person who stole the child to extract his soul, whereupon a large crowd pounced upon the foreigner and beat him to death. Strange to say, the Tsang Sheng magistrate did not go to the village to hold the post-mortem examination until the 19th inst. He was satisfied that the foreigner was murdered. He then gave orders to have the culprits arrested and also put pressure on the gentry of the village to deliver up the murderers. The villagers vigorously protested against the measures taken by the magistrate. Gradually, large crowds started to collect round the magistrate and his retinue and a riot ensued, when the magistrate and his men had to make a retreat for safety. A few days afterwards a villager was arrested for taking part in the murder. It appears that the clan were descendants of two brothers, and the offspring of one branch had always disagreed with the other. The man arrested is a descendant of the elder brother's branch. It is said that after he was arrested he made a statement giving names of numerous persons (descendants of the younger brother) who took part in the murder, and said that the descendants of the eldest branch did not take part in the dastardly deed at all. This resulted in a clash between the two branches and a desperate clan fight ensued. The battle lasted several days and nights, the reports of cannon and guns were heard miles away and hundreds of people were killed on both sides. The disturbance was finally quelled by the arrival of a large body of soldiers. The reports do not indicate the nationality of the murdered foreigner. Tsang Sheng is a district quite close to Canton.

27th June, 1909.

A JAPANESE MURDERED.

It appears that the foreigner who was murdered at a village in the Tsang Sheng District was a Japanese travelling agent. It is reported that he was representing a firm of Japanese chemists and druggists. The Japanese had a coolie with him who was carrying his luggage; the villagers murdered both of them and threw their bodies into the river. The Japanese Vice-Consul and several deputies of the Viceroy are investigating the matter.

PURCHASING A STEAMER.

The Viceroy is negotiating with a German firm here for the purchase of a steamer which will run to and from the Paracel Islands. The vessel, which is now anchored off the Shameen bund, has been inspected by Admiral Li Tsun.

COMPENSATION TO MISSIONARIES.

A few days ago \$1,500 was paid over to the United States Consul-General here by the Chinese Government as compensation for the destruction of a missionary house-boat by a mob in Koon Yew some time ago. The matter was settled by the Peking authorities and the United States Minister.

July 1st.

THE TAIWAN BANK AND AN ALLEGED DEFAULTER.

Viceroy Chang has received a dispatch from the Japanese Consul stating that the Taiwan Bank has discovered that Wei Shung alias Wei Long Shan, who is indebted to the bank in a sum of \$20,000, has made use of a fictitious name of Chan Kwok Kwong in an application forwarded to the Chinese Government applying for the monopolies of the Shan Pui and Po Pui

Lotteries in the name of a syndicate called the Tai Tak Koong Sze; in reality Wei Shung is the applicant. A cheque of \$100,000 drawn on the Yau Shing Bank situated in Ta Tung Street was attached to the application. The dispatch further states that the Taiwan Bank has also found out that Wei Shung is now residing with a friend surnamed Lo in Kwong Nga Lane. In consequence of the above discoveries the Taiwan Bank has applied to the Consul to communicate with His Excellency the Viceroy praying that instructions may be given to the local authorities to detain the cheque of 100,000, and to arrest Wei Shung and have the case tried.

RECRUDESCENCE OF PIRACY.

Since the escape of the convicts from the Shun Tak Prison, many of whom were notorious pirates and robbers, there has been a recrudescence of piracies and robberies in that district. Here are a few recent happenings:—

A few days ago a Canton merchant went to Kwai Chow village in Shun Tak, where he purchased a large quantity of silk. While the silk was being conveyed in broad daylight from the village to a junk for shipment to Canton a gang of robbers suddenly made their appearance from the Sam Yuen Koong Temple outside the village and attacked the silk people with swords and revolvers. After killing the silk merchant and seriously wounding eight of his men, the robbers made off with all the silk without any resistance.

On the 24th ultimo, a boat loaded with fresh eggs was pirated at Loong Chung. The pirates killed the boatman and his wife, threw their bodies into the river and took possession of the boat.

A large gang of robbers broke into the residences of two wealthy families in Shun Tak on the 26th ultimo. The robbers, not satisfied with having dispossessed the owners of large quantities of valuables, also carried away the eldest son in each of the families, for whom they afterwards demanded enormous ransoms.

On the 25th ultimo over 200 robbers plundered the house of one of the gentry named Chan Ming Shek in Tai Ou Fong, near the Shun Tak city. Chan's house was considered by the people in the town to be impregnable, being built of solid granite. The robbers stormed the house for several hours, but failed to force an entrance. At about four o'clock in the morning the bandits broke into several of the grocer shops in the town and got twelve cases of kerosine oil which they took to Chan's house, poured it over the building and set fire to it. Chan and his two sons and a concubine managed to escape from the house when the robbers went to obtain the kerosine, but seven of the inmates were roasted alive. The robbers succeeded in obtaining entrance at about 6 a.m., and after ransacking the house for an hour they left with booty valued at several thousands of dollars. There were eight guard boats and two military stations only 300 yards away from Chan's house, and strange to say none of the officers and soldiers came to the rescue, although the report of the firing of rifles could be heard miles away and the flames from the burning kerosine illuminated the whole town.

EUROPEAN'S SUPPOSED SUICIDE.

FOUND SHOT IN A CHINESE HOTEL.

After five o'clock on Saturday a Chinese employee from the Kwong Tung Restaurant, otherwise known as the Shanghai Hotel, called at the West Point Police Station and informed the police that a European who had called there during the afternoon had shot himself with a revolver. Sergeant Wilson immediately proceeded to the Hotel, and on being ushered into a private room saw a man seated at a small table, his head resting on his elbows. Beside him was lying a five-chambered revolver containing four cartridges, two of which had been fired, and there was a bullet wound in the man's right temple from which a stream of blood had trickled on to the table, and then on to the floor. Deceased went to the restaurant at about two o'clock in the afternoon, and remained in the room in which he was found, partaking of refreshment, until the shots which alarmed the inmates of the hotel were heard.

From papers found on his person it appears that the deceased was a German named Otto Boge, and it is stated that he was a clerk in the Norddeutscher Lloyd. Early on the afternoon of the tragedy he went to Schmidt's arms shop in Beaconsfield Arcade, and said he wanted to buy a revolver. The Chinese boy who was in attendance refused to sell him one, and then he told the boy that he had left one at the shop for repairs, and wished to take it away. On being shown a number of revolvers he selected one, paid \$1.05 which was owing on it, bought a box of cartridges, and departed, leaving his name with the boy.

Subsequently the police were informed that a man named Otto Boge had called at the arms shop and departed with a revolver which did not belong to him, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Then the body was found at West Point as stated, and certain notes in German found in deceased's pockets, it is believed, will explain the reason for his rash act. Financial difficulties are supposed to have been the trouble.

A SENSATIONAL RUMOUR.

No little excitement prevailed in Hongkong on July 2 when a rumour gained currency that the Governor of Macao had been assassinated by emissaries of the Canton Self-Government Society. It is impossible to say from what source the report originated, but the rumour was being passed from mouth to mouth early in the day, and though no confirmation was obtained the story spread with great rapidity. As we had received no telegraphic information on the subject by three o'clock, our representative saw the Portuguese Consul (Mr. Leiria), who was at the time accompanied by several Portuguese officers. Naturally they were perturbed at the news, but as they concluded that if there had been any foundation for the rumour they should have been the first to learn of the occurrence, they did not attach any great significance to the news bruited about so generally. However, to satisfy himself, Mr. Leiria despatched a private telegram to Macao, the answer to which, received late in the afternoon, set at rest all doubts on the subject, so we are happy to state that His Excellency the Governor of Macao has not met with the untoward fate which rumour was so inconsiderate as to suggest.

ESCAPE FROM VICTORIA JAIL.

NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL AT LARGE.

Notwithstanding the bolts and bars and vigilant warders a Chinese prisoner with an unenviable record succeeded in escaping from Victoria Jail on Saturday night or during yesterday morning. From the few ascertainable particulars it appears that the prisoner simply vanished, and that his strange disappearance has baffled all the officials within the walls of the prison. The theory which is considered most probable is that he succeeded in scaling the prison wall which borders on the Old Bailey, but to escape in this manner he must have had assistance, either from without or within, for the wall is between fifteen and twenty feet high, and is crowned with glass. But however he succeeded in breaking from prison, it still seems strange that he should be so long at large, for he departed with a suit bearing the conspicuous broad arrow, and unless this was promptly changed, his recapture must have soon followed.

The prisoner who made this daring escape has served several sentences, including a few terms for returning from banishment. He is, apparently, an exceptionally smart man and a criminal who will stop at nothing in gaining his ends. On a previous occasion, when arrested, he contrived to elude the police by slipping a false queue which he was wearing, and again, when confined in a cell at the West Point Police Station, he endeavoured to gain his freedom by scraping with a piece of wire the cement which bound the bricks of the wall, and then removing the bricks. On that occasion, however, he was not successful.

As soon as the prison officials learned of the escape the police were informed, wires passed from Headquarters to all outlying stations, and detectives were at once sent out in pursuit. So far as we could learn last night, however, the prisoner was not recaptured.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 1st inst. in the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Sir HENRY BERKELEY, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. C.M.I. MESSER (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. P. N. H. JONES (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, K.C., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Mr. G. LEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minute No. 29, and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 8) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers:—Report on the Hongkong Volunteer Corps; Report on the Post Office Department; Reports of the Captain Superintendent of Police and the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade.

THE RAILWAYS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL I moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to regulate the construction and management of railways.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a first time.

STONECUTTERS' ISLAND AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Stonecutters' Island Ordinance, 1889.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a first time.

COMPANIES (LOCAL REGISTERS) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Companies (Local Registers) Ordinance, 1907.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a first time.

INTERPRETATION (FURTHER AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Interpretation Amendment Ordinance, 1908.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a first time.

STAMP ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Stamp Ordinance, 1901, as amended by the Stamp (Amendment) Ordinance 1902. In doing so he said: Hon. members will see from the memorandum of the bill what its object is. This is a revenue bill, and the source of increased revenue sought to be effected thereby is the increase of what may be called death duties and the decrease in the amount which now requires a stamp on receipt. At present a receipt for less than \$25 does not require a stamp, and it

is proposed by the bill that hereafter receipts for \$10 and upwards shall carry a five cent stamp. The amount of death duties is by the bill doubled, but, even so, the actual amount paid in respect of estates is small in comparison with like duties charged in other countries. That, stated shortly, is the object of the bill, and I hope it will commend itself to hon. members with the object of promoting revenue which is much needed. I may say that it is not proposed to bring the bill into operation until the end of the year, and there are one or two small amendments which I shall propose in committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a second time.

Council then resolved itself into committee to consider the bill clause by clause.

On clause 2,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the following words be added "Simple interest at the rate of eight per cent. per annum shall be payable on all sums recoverable under Article 45 should the sum not be paid within one month after the date of the death of the deceased." That is to meet the case where long delay occurs. And (b) "a collector of stamp revenue may remit such interest where the amount appears to him to be so small as to not repay the trouble of calculation."

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—I don't quite follow those two extra clauses, for it seems to me that the time is far too short. In the case of big estates it is quite impossible to have them wound up in a month. In the case of the late Sir Robert Jardine, where a very large sum was paid to the Government, there was a great deal of extra work in valuation of properties, and it was a matter of eight, nine or ten months before we were in a position to send in figures.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The amount is due to the revenue from the date of the death.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—I understand your amendment is that it must be paid within one month?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Yes.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—But the amount is not always ascertainable at the expiration of a month.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—The Jardine estate was a very large and complicated one, but even in the case of an ordinary man it could not possibly be arranged under five or six months.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—What time do you suggest—six months?

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I think that should be the minimum.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Six months for estates up to a certain amount.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I don't think it would work on those lines. It might take just as long to square up an estate of ten thousand pounds as it would to square up an estate of two millions.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I will accept six months.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I take it you did not want any undue delay?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—That was the object.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Your interest of eight per cent. is sufficient not to encourage people to unduly delay.

The Committee decided that the period should be fixed at six months.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the following words be added to clause 4: "This Ordinance shall come into operation on the 1st day of January, 1910," so as to allow ample time to give notice to everybody likely to be affected thereby.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Does it apply to people who die before the 1st of January?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—No.

Council then resumed, and the Attorney-General reported that the Bill had passed through committee stage with slight amendments.

PATENTS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—With regard to the next item, the committee on the bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Patents Ordinance, 1902, the report we are waiting for from the Law Society has not yet been received. I would ask the permission of Council to defer further consideration of this Bill to a later stage.

Council agreed.

PEAK TRAMWAY BILL.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—On behalf of the promoters I beg to move that the bill entitled An Ordinance for authorizing the Construction of a Tramway within the Colony of Hongkong be withdrawn.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I beg to second that. The motion was agreed to, and the bill was withdrawn.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until Thursday next.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following vote was passed:—

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One hundred and four Dollars (\$104) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments, C.—Institutes, Other Charges, Bacteriological Institute and Mortuaries, Books.

THE NEW TERRITORIES.

The District Officer for the New Territories reports as follows:—"Serious crime is less than ever, and the presence of the police is now understood and appreciated. The rumour of the removal of Au Tan, tation was at once followed by a number of influential petitions for its retention. Mrs Bay alone, has given much trouble, but the enforcement of Section 29 of the Local Communities Ordinance in Ping Chau Island has done much towards bringing this troublesome district into order. This section of the Ordinance was also applied to Sheung Shui, but the conditions in this case were not so much those of serious crime as of defiance of the police. The effect of the application has, I think, been excellent, as showing the villagers that the Government does possess an effective weapon for dealing with conspiracy and passive resistance. The co-operation of the Chinese officials over the border has also been of the greatest value to us; and the feeling that China no longer offers an asylum to the criminal is responsible in no small degree for the orderliness of the Territory."

HONGKONG FIRE BRIGADE.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE FIRE BRIGADE.

There were 31 Fires and 59 Incipient Fires during the year, as against 39 and 76 in 1907.

The estimated damage caused by Fires was \$198,219.00 and by Incipient Fires \$1,025.80, as against \$214,710.65 and \$1,541.90 in 1907.

The Brigade turned out 43 times during the year.

There was a constant supply of water in the fire mains throughout the year.

Two Fires occurred in the harbour during the year.

There was one prosecution for arson, in connection with the Fire at No. 69 Bonham Strand. One man was arrested and charged but no conviction was obtained.

There are 34 Despatch Boxes kept in different places in Victoria and 9 in Kowloon, 8 different Telephones to which the Police can have access to communicate with the Central Station in the event of a Fire and 16 Fire Alarms.

The conduct of the Brigade has been good.

PIRACY IN BRITISH WATERS.

A piracy in British waters has just been reported to the local police. On Wednesday of last week a boat which looked like a fishing boat approached a fishing boat in Deep Water Bay and five men sprang on board and drove the fishermen into the hold and closed them down. Then the robbers took possession of the craft and landed the crew on a small island, where they remained for three days without food or shelter until rescued by a passing junk, which brought them to Hongkong. The boat stolen by the pirates was worth over \$100.

The matter was reported to the police and we believe several arrests have been made.

THE HONGKONG POST OFFICE.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report on the Post Office Department, by Mr. C. McL. Messer, Postmaster-General, for the year 1908, was laid on the table at the Legislative Council meeting yesterday afternoon. The Postmaster-General reports as under:—

Mails:—The number of mail bags and packets dealt with in the General Post Office, Hongkong, amounted to 204,289, an increase of 39,148 compared with the previous year.

Registration and Parcel Branch:—Registered articles and parcels handled in Hongkong amounted to 805,503, a decrease of 50,912, compared with the previous year.

Revenue and Expenditure:—A statement of Revenue and Expenditure is given in Table I. I. Revenue amounted to \$412,431.60, showing a decrease of \$32,989.32, due largely to the decreased rates of postage brought in by the Rome Postal Convention.

Money Orders:—Consequent on the depression in trade throughout last year the money order business has been correspondingly diminished in nearly all countries except that from the German Possession in Oceania, which was double that of 1907. There was a falling off of about £5,000 in the issue of sterling orders and a decrease of £7,000 in the inward orders. The latter is accounted for by the reduction of Japanese Colonists in Queensland and thereby reducing the amount drawn on Japan by 50,000 yen, and, on the other hand, sterling postal orders have remained stationary with the sales of 1907. The paid orders have greatly increased by 67 per cent. and local postal orders have also increased by 32 per cent.

Dead Letters:—The total number of all articles sent to the Dead Letter Office at Hongkong and despatched from that office during the year 1908 amounted to 99,241, viz., 48,920 of the former and 50,317 of the latter, showing an increase of 2,019 on the total of the previous year. Of the letters, etc., returned from abroad it was possible to return to senders 15,567 and of the locally addressed 2,821. The increase is chiefly owing to the large amount of lottery circulars which are prohibited to pass through the Post.

Enclosed in 38 unregistered returned letters, there were found articles of value, viz., money to the total value of £36.0.8. in notes, cheques or drafts, and also one large document. These when possible were subjected to registration and returned to the senders. 246 Chinese letters were found to contain coins—49 of them were returned to senders. 182 post cards bearing the imitation of postage stamps addressed to the United Kingdom were withdrawn from the mails, as the regulations of that country prohibit their being forwarded. In only a few cases could these be returned to senders. 37 ordinary picture post cards and 3 letters were posted without address.

Pillar Boxes:—The total number of articles collected during the year from all pillar boxes was 161,933, against 168,496, in 1907 and 122,899 in 1906, showing a decrease of 6,563 in the total of the previous year. Special Postmen are detailed to clear these letter boxes.

Chinese Branch:—The total number of Chinese registered articles delivered by the Chinese Branch at the General Post Office was 187,090, of which 123,102 were from United States of America and Canada, and 63,988 from China and other countries, showing a total increase, compared with the year 1907, of 24,170. The amount of the ordinary correspondence dealt with has also largely increased.

Postal Hong Licences:—38 Postal Hong licences and 95 licences to letter carriers were issued during the year. The latter number shows a decrease of 25 letter carrier licences.

Western Branch Post Office:—The amount of correspondence sent between this Branch Office and Canton was:—Despatched 578,453 letters, 4,395 other articles and 7,659 registered articles; received 741,006 letters, 8,592 other articles, and 4,309 registered articles. In comparison with previous years the figures show a large increase of correspondence handled by this branch. In addition to the above, 13,034 Hong Packets were despatched and 18,529 received by the Branch. The revenue from the sale of stamps amounted to \$72,174.10, compared with \$43,928.38 in the previous year.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The report of Major-General Broadwood, C.B., Officer Commanding the Troops in South China, on the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the year 1908-09, is as follows:—

Mounted Troop: A great deal of good work has been done in gaining knowledge of the surrounding country and in general exercise in the duties of the mounted soldier. All the training has been carried out in a practical and soldier-like way. The O.C. Troop proposes to do away with a standing camp during the Christmas exercises in future. I consider this sound both in the score of economy and efficiency.

Artillery:—(1.) Good results were obtained by the adoption of the suggestion of Commanding Royal Artillery that:—(i.) All practices should be carried out under tactical schemes, (ii.) That instruction in the field, of Battery Commanders and their Staffs, should be given by the use of gun sight tripods.

(2.) The following remarks apply to the training generally:—(a.) Fire discipline and fire tactics require more attention. In former years marks were only awarded for fire discipline and fire effect. This year, marks were allotted for fire tactics also. Such points as appreciation of situations, selection of positions, etc., being duly allotted marks. B.C.s were new to these conditions, and a marked improvement was noticeable during the latter practices; (b.) The Battery Staffs require more training and are also in some cases not complete. It is almost impossible to lay too great stress on the importance of a well trained staff, failing which a battery is a "ship without a rudder"; (c.) The gun drill was good, layers and fuze setters accurate, and the actual service of the guns showed careful training.

Engineers:—The technical inspection of the Engineer Company was satisfactory, all but one or two being qualified for their duties. The attendance at the R.E. searchlight manning and at the weekly practices at the drill emplacement at Kowloon has been poor. It is regretted that the Engineer Company find themselves unable to adopt the suggestion to organise a telephone section which would include operators and linemen.

Infantry:—A satisfactory start has at last been made with the infantry company, and it is hoped that it may eventually reach its full establishment. The musketry training has been conducted on sound lines but would benefit by increased range facilities. The Tai Hang range is inconveniently situated and unpopular in the hot weather. I recommend that the King's Park Range become the volunteer range and that the Volunteer Reserve Association be allowed the occasional use of it. At present this range is in the hands of the association, which is of small value from a military point of view, while the Volunteers are only allowed to use it occasionally.

General:—Although a great deal of useful work is done at the annual camp at Stonecutters' and though every credit is due to the men who do this work in their leisure time, often at the end or beginning of a hard day's civil work, it cannot be said that the military value of the camp is equal to the expenditure involved. Most men are only present at irregular intervals for an hour's work in the morning and afternoon, so that units seldom work at full strength, a system which is most unsatisfactory both for the instructors and instructed. I recommend that future camps should be held in the New Territories for a week or eight days, and that endeavours should be made to get employers to allow men to be present continuously for at least three or four days of that time. If such a camp were run on lines which bore some resemblance to service conditions an economy could be effected and the training improved. All preliminary drills and instructions of gun layers, etc., should be done in the fortnight preceding camp so as not to waste time while out. It is a regrettable fact that the Corps cannot be recruited up to its establishment. An incentive would be given to the movement if the Government could see its way to bring pressure to bear on its employees to join the Corps. From a general point of view there can be no doubt as to the value of encouraging all the able-bodied citizens to fit themselves to take a part in the defence of the Empire, but as

regards the actual addition to the fighting strength of the Colony it must be remembered that a large number of members of the Corps are in employments from which they could not be spared in war.

THE COMMANDANT'S REPORT.

The report of the Commandant, Lieut.-Colonel Chapman, showed that on April 1st, 1908, the total strength of the Corps was 295, while on March 31st, 1909, it was only 284. The Corps now consisted of a mounted troop, four companies of Artillery, an Engineer Company and an Infantry Co.

The present strength of the Cadet Company was 24. The miniature rifle range erected near the Victoria School was regularly used, and many of the cadets made excellent shooting.

The standard of efficiency had been well maintained during the past year, owing to the assistance and loyal co-operation he had invariably received from the Staff Officer, other members of the staff, and all the officers and and senior N.C.O.s.

THE FORTHCOMING CAT SHOW.

Although the announcement has been made in several local newspapers, it does not seem to be generally known that a Cat Show is contemplated at a not remote date. It is believed that the idea came from His Excellency the Governor, and the matter is now in the hands of the Sanitary Department. What steps they have taken in the matter have not transpired, but we are informed that a committee representative of both sections of the community has been appointed to make arrangements.

Of course there can be no show without a prize fund, and though the prizes awarded will not be large or valuable it nevertheless entails a considerable sum of money to provide the prizes. Subscriptions to this prize fund are to be invited, and doubtless there should be a good response from our wealthier citizens.

Our representative made inquiries yesterday and learned that the matter is being seriously taken up. He was told that the cats would be judged on certain well defined distinctions which indicate certain characteristics. For instance, a certain shaped head betrays cleanliness, and other points can be judged in a similar way. Having in mind the Board's idea of the value of cats as rat destroyers, he asked if there would be any awards for good ratlers, and he was further informed, with a smile, that the qualities of the felines in this direction would be tested by properly organised rat hunts. If that be so, there can be little doubt of the success of the forthcoming exhibition from the public standpoint. Such rat hunts will be sure to draw large gatherings.

CAPTURE OF PIRATES AT MACAO.

The Police Authorities of Macao (writes our correspondent) are entitled to a great deal of credit for the capture of a gang of pirates they have just effected. They had news that a junk from Hongkong was bringing a number of pirates to Macao, and they consequently kept a sharp look-out. Success attended their efforts. The men in question were put under arrest, and the police were able to elicit from them information as to the whereabouts of their comrades ashore. The gang was divided into two groups, one group occupying a house in Rua da Palha, and a larger number were living in Rua Formosa. The capture of the smaller of the two groups was easily effected, but the greatest difficulty was experienced in arresting the others. Every precaution was taken to prevent their escape, and even the Fire Brigade was called to the vicinity by the police in case the pirates, in despair, set fire to the house. Shots were exchanged between the pirates and the police, but the former were eventually overpowered and the result was the arrest of about a score, among them being a noted pirate chief. A few women and children were also in the house. The police also found a number of good revolvers and a quantity of ammunition.

A Straits contemporary learns that the Hon. W. J. Napier is resigning the Attorney-Generalship in September, and that the post has been offered to Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

The annual general meeting of members of the V.R.C. was held in the Gymnasium at the Club House on June 28th. Mr. T. E. Pearce presided, and there were also present Messrs. T. Meek, M. McIver, L. E. Lammert, J. Rodger, S. A. Seth (treasurer), Frank Lammert (secretary), and a large attendance of members.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said it was in May, 1908, that the V. R. C. moved into the new premises, and consequently their income and expenditure had been extraordinary when compared with other years, and the cost of running the new and larger premises had been experimental. The treasurer, Mr. Seth, has gone to a great deal of trouble in preparing a new set of books and putting the accounts on a more satisfactory basis. The Club's best thanks were due to him for his painstaking work. There were some items in the accounts that differed widely from last year's, and needed some explanation. It was very pleasing to find that in the general working account they were able to show a credit balance of \$2,000. This was accounted for principally by an increase in subscriptions and entrance fees of some \$1,000. That was satisfactory, but he would point out that all the expenses had increased, and would increase further. Their new premises required a large staff to keep them in good order, and there were always minor additions and repairs to be made. Next year they would have the new swimming bath, and further additions would have to be made to the staff. The committee did not see how it was possible to diminish these expenses. Very soon they would have to find 1,200 extra to pay the interest on the \$20,000 debentures they were raising with which to erect a new bath, and they would want to pay off a certain number of these yearly. One of the problems that the new committee would have to solve was the raising of more funds, and he expected that the members would find they would have to pay a larger subscription. It would be admitted that this was a cheap club. The present subscription, \$15 per annum, was not commensurate with the benefits that they got from the equipment provided, and more so would that be when the new swimming bath was erected. The matter would have to be gone carefully into, but meanwhile it was satisfactory to find that they had a balance on the right side. There was a small loss on the athletic sports of \$32, but they could not cavil at this remembering the good afternoon's sport which was provided. Their best thanks were again due to the numerous friends who had provided prizes, and who subscribed to the funds for promoting the sports. The aquatic sports appeared to be the most popular and the paying branch of the establishment, and he thought this would be more so in the future. The V.R.C. were not successful in the Water Polo Shield Competition, but both the teams were well up in the list when the finals were played. The reserve fund in the balance sheet stood at \$26,867.62. This amount was \$196.89 more than the amount at last year's summary. The \$686.60 cash overdrawn was merely a book explanation. Certain cheques were drawn before the accounts were closed in payment of sundry accounts pertaining to 19-8. These cheques were debited "cash" in the books, and credited to bank as on 31st December, 1908, hence the debit balance of bank account in the books. Referring to the rowing branch, the speaker remarked that whilst they were not successful at Canton and not as successful in the Hongkong Regatta as they could have wished, it augured well for the future when they read that there was more interest taken in rowing, and that more members were using the boats. When next season's racing came along they hoped to again see the V. R. C. at the head. He should like to mention their indebtedness to the Yacht Club for the loan of one of their boats. The sporting spirit shown was much appreciated. With regard to gymnastics, it seemed a pity that more use was not made of the very fine room and apparatus supplied. The speaker said he had nothing further to add, but would be willing to answer any questions to the best of his ability (applause).

No questions were asked and the report and accounts were adopted on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. W. S. BAILEY.

Mr. A. RODGER was re-elected Chairman on the motion of Mr. F. LAMMERT seconded by Mr. MEEK.

Mr. W. J. CARROLL proposed the re-election of Mr. F. Lammert as secretary.

Mr. A. R. ELLIS seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously amid great applause.

On the motion of Mr. L. E. LAMMERT, second by Mr. C. J. COOKE, Mr. Silas was elected treasurer of the Club for the ensuing year.

The following members of the general committee were then elected by ballot—Messrs. J. Rodger, L. E. Lammert, T. E. Pearce, T. Meek, M. McIver, W. A. Crake, A. N. Kemp, H. B. Bridger and C. B. Franklin.

A ballot was then taken for a balloting committee, the result being that the following members were elected:—Messrs. J. A. S. Alves, A. A. Alves, A. E. S. Alves, J. Cruickshank, A. P. Nobbs, H. A. Seth, R. L. Bridger, S. C. MacNider, A. Pattison.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the official business, gentlemen. I will now ask Mr. Meek to report on the swimming bath.

Mr. MEEK informed the meeting that out of 80 debentures, 652 had been taken up, which gave an amount of \$16,300. That number of debentures had been taken up by 156 members only, which meant that some had been very liberal, while a great number of members had taken none. Application forms were still to be had, and he hoped that those members who had not made use of them would proceed to do so. They had quite sufficient money at present to make the proposed bath, but he did not like to see a thing started unless they could accomplish it without a debit balance.

Mr. SILVA NETTO wished to know the amount of the tender for the building of the new swimming bath.

Mr. MEEK stated that they only had a rough estimate from the architect. \$21,000 would be more than wanted. Final tenders, when preliminaries were decided, would be put out to competition among different contractors. He had not the least doubt that when competition came along the cost of the bath would be within \$20,000.

The meeting ended with votes of thanks to Messrs. Meek, S. A. Seth and the members of the retiring committee.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Dealing with the subject of commercial intelligence in his annual report Commander Basil Taylor, R. N., Harbour Master, writes as under:—

Fifty-three letters were received during the year from firms, principally in Great Britain, requesting information upon various points connected with their respective businesses, asking to be placed in communication with local firms, or submitting samples or price lists. The replies to the several queries have been as full as the information, &c., at my disposal permitted, and wherever necessary, the name of the firm concerned, and the particular branch of trade indicated, have been published from time to time in the Government Gazette.

It is greatly to be regretted that no replies to or queries upon these publications in the Government Gazette have ever been received by me from local firms or individuals. Most of my correspondents send catalogues and price lists, and, in many cases, samples of their goods. These catalogues and price lists cannot, of course, be published, but are open to inspection at any time during office hours by interested persons.

It may be that the publication of the names of the firms in correspondence with me has been productive of direct communication between the local and home firms, but of this I have no knowledge.

From the *Foochow Echo* we take the following paragraph:—"The Souchong market is booming. Good Old Foochow. When the most depressing news comes from the London Market, and things look at their worst, the merry Chassee is always sanguine, and is now scrambling to buy Tarry Souchongs irrespective of price."

BAGUIO.

THE SUMMER CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES.

A little boy at Sunday School was once asked to give the modern interpretation of the old Biblical saying, "Go to," and he very aptly answered "Come off." In a like manner, the modern interpretation of the old saying, "See Naples and die," should be at least to foreigners living in the East, "Go to Baguio and live."

Baguio is situated in the Benguet Province of Luzon, about 100 miles almost due north from Manila, and has an altitude of about 7,000 feet. It owes its existence in a very large measure to Mr. Dean C. Worcester, a member of the Philippine Commission, who discovered the very large plateau upon which Baguio is now built, whilst following up the old Igorrote trails through the mountains of Benguet.

Its value as a site for the Capital Government in the summer was readily recognised by the Government, of which Mr. Taft at that time was the head, and he sanctioned the building of the celebrated Benguet Road, a road starting from the plains and running right up the cañon of the Bend River up to the top of the mountain, a piece of engineering equal almost to any in the world.

The temperature of Baguio rarely goes above 70 Fahrenheit even in the middle of the hottest day, and in the winter it frequently reaches freezing point. It seems almost absurd to think that in 10 hours from hot and steaming Manila (and Manila is hot between February and June) one can get to a climate where heavy clothes are necessary, and where one can sit round a pine fire in the evening, and if necessary almost drink hot toddy.

Whilst the commission is sitting at Baguio, a special train leaves Manila every morning at 10 o'clock. But the usual way is to leave Manila by the 6.25 train in the morning. This train, although very slow (it seems to stop at every house on the railway), is very comfortable and takes the passenger to "San Fatian," a small junction about ten miles beyond Dagupan, the port of the Lingayen Gulf, where a change is made into a sort of light railway train to Camp One. Camp One is a very small place at the foot of the Benguet Hills and is the commencement of the famous Benguet Road, and owes its name to the fact that the first camp for the building of the road was there.

Large steam Stanley motor cars await the train here at the terminal station, and a start up to Baguio is made as soon as possible after the arrival of the train. It is impossible in writing to express the great glowing beauties of this climb up the hills. Skirting along the edges of the cliffs with the everlasting hills on the one side and the Bend River on the other, with picturesque waterfalls every few minutes, with the road winding in and out, here on the edge of a precipice, there going round the noble curves of the celebrated Zigzag, here steaming over a suspension bridge with a sheer drop beneath of hundreds of feet, there going cautiously by a small land slide, and all the time the beautiful vegetation of the semi-tropical region makes a sight which must impress the average man with the grandeur—the unspeakable grandeur—of the entire place, and makes one feel that one has not travelled in vain to reach here. At one part of the route—the Zigzag—one sees five different parts of the same road below winding in and out round the hills, and is possibly amongst the grandest sights in the world.

The distance from Camp One to the Garage at Baguio is 20 miles, and is covered by the very powerful steam motor cars in two hours. The change from the tropical vegetation of the plains at Camp One to the large pine trees of the temperate zone of Baguio is indeed striking, as also is the fall in the temperature as one ascends to the higher altitudes of the Summer Capital.

At Baguio there is a large and well appointed hotel called "The Hotel Pines," a Country Club, with several cottages attached thereto, and many private houses either built or building for various people residing in Manila. Notable amongst these is the house of the present Acting Governor-General, Mr. Cameron Forbes, a house

designated by the very apt name of Topside, and built of stone quarried from the surrounding hill, and situated on the top of nearly the highest hill there.

Camp John Hay, where a company of American soldiers are stationed, is also very prettily situated on another hill, so that, to the intending visitor from Manila or China, there is always plenty of society, especially when the Commission is sitting.

Baguio is also the centre of the much-talked-of gold mines of the Benguet Province, and a trip on horseback to the Benguet consolidated Mine, or the Bua Mine, where the stamps are merrily beating the gold out of the auriferous quartz which abounds there, would well repay one for the fatigue of the journey. Old miners who have been prospecting for gold through these hills are very enthusiastic about their possibilities, and it is already in these early days said that Luzon will in a few years be amongst the richest of the gold-producing countries of the world.

The difficulties of transportation at present are very great. But as these are gradually overcome, the value of Baguio as a delightful place to visit and as a health resort for the jaded inhabitant of the plains, and as a place to spend a few weeks' holiday from China, will inevitably be recognised. It will take its place as a second Simla, and will soon equal if not excel the beauties of Miyashita or Nikko.

There are a few very good stories told locally which are worthy of record. One of the first of the American ladies to reside in Baguio was Mrs. Smith. Instructing the natives of the place in speaking English, it is stated that she informed them that the correct way to approach her in the morning, according to our ideas, was to say "Good morning, Mrs. Smith." This had the curious effect of causing all the natives whenever they saw a white person, man or woman, to address them all with the expression "Good morning, Mrs. Smith." An old man, apparently about 100 years of age, was seen by a foreigner who resided there sitting near at hand, and he asked him why his son was crying, and the answer was, "He has been very insolent to his grandfather, who is getting somewhat old, and I have had to chastise him for it."

What an ideal place this must be, for people who desire to live over the allotted span of three score years and ten!

THE HONGKONG UNIVERSITY PROJECT.

We are officially informed that Mr. Mody has consented to keep his offer (of providing the buildings for the University) open till the end of the year.

He did so in a confidential communication to The Governor some time ago, but desired that it should not be made known until the six months (ending June 30th.) was on the point of completion, in order that the collection of the funds for endowment should be stimulated.

The greater part of the amount required has now been promised, but it is necessary, on the one hand, that the promised donations should be actually paid in to the Treasurer and, on the other hand, it must be remembered that the sum named (£100,000 endowment and £10,000 for Equipment) was the minimum amount estimated to start a University of two or perhaps three chairs only. When that minimum had been realised it would justify Mr. Mody in undertaking the buildings and Government in giving the site and accepting the gift from Mr. Mody.

But to make the University really efficient and to establish Chairs in other subjects, a larger endowment will be required in order that more Professors may be appointed, and it is hoped that a fully adequate sum will be raised to make the University thoroughly efficient.

It is stated in *The Lancet*, referring to the establishment of the new Bristol University, that the minimum amount qualifying for a Charter is £250,000. Enquiry is being made regarding the truth of this statement. If it should be true and should apply equally to the Hongkong University, it is clear that a considerable sum remains to be raised before a Charter can be applied for.

Assuming the present minimum endowment and equipment fund to be raised, and putting the value of the site and buildings at £50,000, the total stands at £160,000.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The Report of the Harbour Master of Hongkong (Commander Basil Taylor, R.N.) for the year 1908 shows that while the number of ships entered and cleared (532,078) showed an increase of 24,478, as compared with the returns for 1907, there was a decrease in tonnage amounting to 1,413,069. The total tonnage was 34,614,335. Of these totals 45,437 ships of 22,306,037 tons were engaged in Foreign trade, and were distributed as follows:—

	1908.	1907.
	in numbers	in numbers
	per cent.	per cent.
British Ocean vessels represented	8.3	33.7
Foreign ocean vessels	9.2	33.2
British River Steamers	13.8	19.2
Foreign River Steamers	2.9	3.3
Steamships not exceeding 60 tons	8.9	0.8
Trading Junks	56.9	9.8
	100.0	100.0

The Harbour Master mentions the interesting fact that during the past twenty years the average tonnage of Ocean vessels visiting the Colony has risen from 1,186.9 tons to 2,248.6 tons. Another interesting comparison with the figures of twenty years ago shows the wonderful growth of the shipping trade. In 1888, 2,614 British ships of 3,265,751 tons entered the port, against 10,115 ships of 11,792,752 tons in 1908. For Foreign ships the figures are, in 1888, 1,206 ships of 1,252,862 tons, and in 1908, 5,429 ships of 8,130,901 tons. These figures are for Ocean and River steamers, which were not distinguished in 1888, and Ocean sailing ships (not junks). The ratio of increase in both cases, it will be noticed, has been practically the same.

A comparative table included in the report shows an increase in British ocean shipping, entered and cleared during the year, of 113 ships of 289,101 tons. The Harbour Master remarks that this increase appears to indicate a very considerable revival of trade during the last quarter of the year after the general depression; for in each of the first three quarters decreases were shown as compared with the corresponding periods of 1907. British River steamers are shown to have decreased by 582 entries and clearances with a collective tonnage of 342,882 tons. This decrease is due to the loss of two large, regularly running, steamers, the *Powan* and *Yingking*, and the withdrawal of a third, the *Hoi Sang*, from the run, during the year. Foreign Ocean vessels have decreased by 489 ships of 323,039 tons. This decrease is general, but is most noticeable under the Norwegian, Japanese, and German flags, and may undoubtedly be attributed to the general trade depression throughout the world. Foreign River steamers show a falling off of 13 ships of 10,927 tons, which is due to the laying up of several of these vessels after the typhoon of July 27, in which they were damaged. Had it not been for this, the numbers and tonnage would have been considerably in excess of those for 1907. The actual number of individual ocean vessels of European construction entering during 1908 was 745, being 365 British and 380 Foreign. The figures in 1907 were respectively 800, 362, and 438. These 745 ships aggregated 1,824,237 tons. They entered 3,991 times and gave a collective tonnage of 7,452,498 tons. Thus compared with 1907, 55 fewer ships of 36,008 less tons, entered 191 fewer times and gave a collective tonnage decreased by 15,013 tons.

The number of aliens in the British mercantile marine was stated by Admiral Fremantle recently to be 40,000, and he added that these foreign sailors received £2,000,000 in pay, which went out of the country. At the same gathering at which these statements were made the following letter from Lord Charles Beresford was read: "I entirely agree with Sir Christopher Furness views as to the necessity of training lads to be seamen in British ships. We want British seamen for British ships, and there are far too many aliens in them to be safe or efficient if we are called upon to defend ourselves

in a sudden war. Seafaring life brings out some of the finest characteristics of the British race. Nowhere are these characteristics wanted more than in the mercantile marine when the men's loyalty, and duty, under often terrible difficulties and unforeseen circumstances, make the punctual delivery of our food supply certain to this country. The officers and men of the Royal Navy thoroughly appreciate the loyalty, the duty, energy, enterprise, and pluck which are so continually exhibited by the officers and men of the mercantile marine in carrying out their work. In the Royal Navy these characteristics are generally known by the public; in the mercantile marine they are often unheard of, although so continually brought into play. May all good luck attend you in your patriotic objects."

Vancouver's trade is enlarging so rapidly that the Canadian Pacific is increasing its harbour accommodation by the construction of four new large piers, the shortest of which will be 600 ft. long. These piers will be fully equipped with rail tracks and freight sheds, chiefly in order to handle the increasing through traffic. Arrangements have been made with the Bank Line to operate a service of four steamers between Vancouver and Yokohama, as the regular Canadian Pacific steamers are unable to carry all the traffic that is offered them.

The principal toll-gate on the world's ocean highways is the Suez Canal. Its annual returns consequently afford a very fair index of the general trend of maritime business. It is not surprising to find an appreciable decrease in revenue during 1908. The drop is as much as £345,000, while at the same time expenditure has increased by about £50,000. The shrinkage in earnings is, of course, due to the fact that fewer ships passed through the waterway. The actual falling-off was 472 vessels, representing upwards of a million tons. But the tendency for the average tonnage of the ships to increase made some further progress, and the average duration of the passage established yet another record for brevity. The lessened earnings of the canal company do not affect the dividend, for when the dues were recently reduced a special reserve was set up, and this is now to be utilised in maintaining the distribution. There is a suggestion in the report that the statutory reserves, which are quite separate, are likely to show a surplus presently available to increase the amount of profit available for dividend. Nothing is said about the negotiations which have been set on foot for an extension of the canal company's concession, but the subject is almost sure to be raised at the annual meeting. As showing the progressive tendency of Suez (anal administration, it may be recalled that until quite recently there was a prohibition against the use of the waterway by petroleum tank steamers. Last year, however, some thirty of these vessels passed through the canal.

LICENSING COURT.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland presided over a meeting of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace held at the Magistracy on June 25th. There were also present—Messrs. J. H. Kemp, J. R. Wood, F. J. Badeley, E. A. Irvine, R. H. A. Craig, C. D. Melbourne and A. Shelton Hooper.

The meeting was called to consider an application from Mr. R. H. Whittaker for permission to remove the business carried on by him at 40, 41 and 42, Praya East, under the sign of the Praya East Hotel, to premises numbered 9, Queen's Road East, under the new name of "The Victoria Hotel".

Mr. F. C. Barlow (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) represented the applicant, and objected to Mr. Hooper appearing or acting as a Justice, as he was an interested party, being the agent of the owner of the premises.

Mr. Hooper stated that he would not vote. The application was considered *in camera*, and on the court being reopened the Chairman announced that the application had been refused. All the Justices present, with the exception of Mr. Melbourne, voted against it.

NOTES FROM JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

TOKYO, June 16th.

THE FUTURE OF KOREA.

The event of greatest political moment that is being talked about is the resignation of Prince Ito of his post of Resident-General in Korea, and the elevation of Viscount Sone, Deputy Resident-General to the high office. The ostensible reason for the change is the advancing age of the veteran statesman, but one of the remarkable things about Prince Ito, which the papers love to dwell upon, is his Highness' physical vigour. He cannot, moreover, be called an old man, for much has been done and is still being done in the field of action by men who are many years beyond three score and eight. As President of the Privy Council, the chief advisory body to the Emperor, it may be said that Prince Ito has by no means relinquished control of Japanese policy in Korea—that he remains in fact the sovereign's mouthpiece in all which concerns the government of the peninsula. Viscount Sone is only eight years younger than the elder statesman, but very much younger as a man of affairs. Prince Ito in this respect has had a rich experience, beyond that of any of his contemporaries. It is interesting to note that Prince Yamagata, who has always been considered the militarist leader, just as Prince Ito is looked upon as the chief advocate of peaceful, non-militarist measures, resigns from the presidency of the Privy Council and becomes an ordinary member. These two statesmen have always been political rivals, and consequently there would appear to be some significance in the appointment of Prince Ito to the presidency of the Council, in place of Prince Yamagata, who is the former's senior by three years and in the estimation of his countrymen equally distinguished. When Prince Ito was at Seoul he was not handicapped by orders of the Privy Council, but his successor will not enjoy like freedom. He will be subject to the Privy Council in Tokyo. Prince Ito has accomplished what is called the first stage of the government of the peninsula kingdom, and it is not necessary for him to be on the spot.

THE TOKYO RAILWAY PROBLEM.

The Tokyo Electric Railway Co. has decided to declare a dividend at the rate of 5.4 per cent., after putting aside the usual 500,000 yen to sinking fund against the time when the system has to be handed over to the city gratis. The number of passengers carried in the six months was 84,000,000, the revenue being 3,000,000 yen. The directors declared the largest dividend possible after putting aside the sinking fund, which they are determined shall be increased by five hundred thousand yen every half-year, and laying aside necessary legal and depreciation reserves. Hence, on the present rate of fare, it will be impossible ever to declare a dividend which is considered a fair return in this country, namely, 7 per cent. An increase of one sen in the fare would realise some 800,000 yen every six months, sufficient to pay an additional 4 per cent., and a fresh effort will no doubt be made to obtain this increase. Meanwhile a rather novel question has cropped up. The engagement of the company with the municipality is that the city receive a portion of the profits remaining after a 7 per cent. dividend has been paid. At present, of course, the city receives nothing and that is a sore point with the city fathers. It is now reported that the authorities are of opinion that the 500,000 set aside every half-year should be considered profit, when the city would have a chance of getting a dividend. Were this 500,000 divided, however, the city's proportion would be very small indeed, for as it takes some 200,000 yen to pay one per cent., the city's share, a third of the excess of seven per cent., would only amount to about 20,000 yen, whereas it was originally estimated that the annual revenue to the city by the arrangement would be some 300,000 yen. The only remedy seems to be municipalisation or an increase of fare.

COMMERCIAL SURPRISE PACKETS.

The shareholder in Japanese companies at the present day is not exactly a fortunate person. He never knows when some new surprise will

be sprung upon him, and feels he has no remedy for just grievances. The Tanko Kisen Kaisha or Hokkaido Steamship and Mining Co. is a case in point. Last half-year this company paid 14 per cent. and its shares changed hands at 110. To-day it promises 6 per cent. and the ruling price is 48. Last half-year the Tokyo-Yokohama Electric Railway paid 10 per cent. and properly managed it should be one of the most prosperous concerns in the Kingdom. To-day it pays 6 per cent. Last half-year the Dai Nippon Sugar Co. paid 15 per cent.; to-day most of the people who were directing that concern are in jail. A good many company directors, who are now free, ought to be in jail. There is a sad lack of high principle, training and experience. The public company system is not new, but it is not old. There are hundreds of directors and other responsible men to-day who are quite unfitted for such positions, but are brought into existence by the sudden increase in the number of public companies. The tyros find themselves in the novel position of being guardians of large sums of shareholders' money, and the responsibility is too much for them. Encouraged by a negative system of auditing, principles of sound business, and the common caution they would exercise in using their own money go to the winds. It is not, perhaps, realised that to be a successful director of other people's money requires an exceptional standard of integrity. Education, especially that form of education given in the Japanese Schools, have nothing to do with it. Claptrap about *bushido*, which was evolved when one part of the nation were slaves and the other an arrogant military caste, is out of place entirely, for *bushido* has nothing to do with common honesty. Business ability and integrity can only be acquired by experience and the conviction that honesty and plain-dealing are the first essentials in business. These convictions the average business man in this country does not hold, although he might be an honest upholder of the principles of *bushido*.

THE "INKYO."

A pleasant reminder of old days, when Japan was not bothered by foreign trade and competition, and foreign ideas of honesty, is the old man one constantly meets on the street carrying a baby on his back and contentedly whiling away the day doing nothing but looking after baby, his grandchild. He is an "inkyo," one who has abdicated his portion as head of the family in favour of his son and retired from active life. The latest would-be recruit to this class of the people is Baron Shibusawa, our premier man of commerce, who has announced his intention of retiring from the many companies he is connected with. Such a thing as retiring absolutely is of course impossible for the man of the prominence of Baron Shibusawa, but he can relinquish a great deal without giving up all. He will not, for example, sever his connection with his own creation, the Dai-ichi Ginko, the pioneer of banks, established by him in 1873. For years he had to fight against the opposition of a conservative people, who would not trust this new institution. He has fought all that down, however, and is to-day not only famous among his countrymen, but the proper type of the man of business. His education, gained in the infancy of Japan's modern growth, could not have been extensive, but he is an example for the products of the schools of to-day. The Baron states that his advancing age, he is seventy, makes it necessary for him to give up much of his work, making way for the younger generation, among whom he believes there are many men of great ability. No doubt the Japanese business world is full of men of energy, enterprise, and ability. But is integrity among these men a pronounced characteristic? The progress of the sugar scandal trials shows the manner of life led by the men who may be fairly taken as a common type of the nation's legislators and men of business. Bribes were easily given and received, no question of right or wrong cropping up, and, from the evidence, these leaders of the people lived in an atmosphere of restaurants, concubinage, and various forms of corruption. The restaurant and singing-girl play an important part in business affairs, and with these you cannot dissociate corruption in all its forms. It would be a good thing if Baron Shibusawa were to become a General Booth

among business men of Japan. He has ripe experience, convictions, and, we hope, many years of life before him.

A CURIOUS RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

A disastrous railway accident of an uncommon nature took place between Fukushima and Yonezawa, 150 miles north of the capital, a few days ago. A compound train consisting of four passenger cars and seventeen goods wagons, heavily laden left Fukushima with an engine in front and rear. The district is mountainous, and while negotiating a heavy gradient something went wrong with the rear engine. The forward engine was unable to pull the load alone, and coming to a standstill the train began to move backwards. The brakes were applied but without effect; something seems to have been wrong with those also, and the train increasing in speed at every moment, rushed down the incline. Nearing a wayside station the engine and some cars were derailed, the shock crushing to splinters many wagons and carriages. Four persons were killed outright, while over twenty were seriously injured.

INTERESTING TO STAMP COLLECTORS.

The other day a friend received an advertisement delivered not by post but by a city delivery agency. The article was too large to come through the post, but the agency undertook delivery for the modest sum of three sen, and as some hundreds of the advertisement were delivered in the same district, it is conceivable that the enterprise is profitable. The post office cannot complain of this form of competition, but it will probably have a word to say about the labels which franked the advertisement. These are a very close imitation of the current 3-sen stamp, sufficiently close to deceive the eye, although comparison with the government stamp shows the inferiority of the imitation at many points. The name of this interprising delivery agency is the Nippon Ben tatsu Kaisha, and its telephone number appears as the cancellation or postmark, suggesting the ordinary date stamp of the post office! The imitation in both cases is remarkably close, and is worthy of the attention of the postal authorities, for the idea will suggest great possibilities for the unscrupulous. Such things have been tried in England; that is, advertising labels simply, not in imitation of stamps, have been stuck on postal missives, but an order of the Postmaster-General was recently issued forbidding the practice, because the labels were confusing to the sorters. While on the subject, it is high time the Japanese Post Office gave attention to the matter of confusion in postage stamps, for the present three and four sen stamps are in practically the same colour and have the same design. The colour of the four-sen is fixed according to the regulation of the International Postal Union, but either the design or colour of the three-sen could be altered with advantage.

A MONTH-END IN LONDON.

Shanghai to London in fourteen days is the latest announcement in connection with the journey, via Siberia. This is done via Tairen. It is, after all, only as it should be. The time will come when ten days only are required to bridge the distance between Tokyo and London, and then our holiday jaunts will be more frequent, always presuming, of course, that company directors here remain simply directors and not appropriators of our money!

HONGKONG PLAGUE STATISTICS.

We have been furnished with the following table showing the distribution of plague this season in the Colony of Hongkong:—

Kowloon City.....	31
Old Kowloon—	
Yaumati	38
Tsim Sha Tsui	11
Tai Kok Tsui	1
Hung Hom	1
Quarry Bay	3
Harbour	2
City of Victoria	30

117

Of the 30 cases returned from the City of Victoria 6 were imported from outside the Colony and 2 at least came across from Kowloon.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Commander Basil R. H. Taylor, R.N., Harbour Master, supplies the following interesting particulars regarding emigration and immigration in his annual report for 1908:—

Seventy-one thousand and eighty-one (71,081) emigrants left Hongkong for various places during the year; of these, 53,118 were carried in British ships and 17,963 in Foreign ships. These figures show a great falling off (from 105,967) of 34,886 Emigrants, or 32.9 per cent. compared with those for 1907.

It is difficult to account for this large decrease, but it was probably partly due to the general depression in trade which restricted the demand for labour and partly to the quarantine restrictions placed upon vessels from the Colony to other ports. The anti-Chinese feeling in certain parts of the world culminating in legislation against Asiatics no doubt also had a deterrent effect upon emigration. But the chief causes undoubtedly were:—

(1.) The cessation of Assisted Emigration to Banka and Billiton. This branch of the business was commenced only in 1907, and served to largely swell the figures for that year. The demand for labour in those islands was not very large, and all the plantations there were fully manned before the beginning of 1908.

(2.) The floods in Canton and up the West River checked recruiting during the first months of the year.

(3.) There was a considerable demand for labour on the several railways under construction in China, which restricted the recruiting area.

157,809 returning emigrants were reported as having been brought to Hongkong from the several places to which they had emigrated, either from this Colony or from Coast Ports, as against 145,822 in 1908. This includes 106 returning from South Africa. Of the total number 116,094 arrived in British ships and 41,715 in Foreign ships.

MR. WILLARD D. STRAIGHT.

The above-named gentleman, who, according to recent telegrams, will soon leave America for China in the interests of the American Syndicate which is to participate in the development of Chinese Railways, is not without experience in the Far East. At the time of the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War, says the *Shanghai Times*, Mr. Straight was in the employ of the Imperial Maritime Customs and was stationed at Peking. This position he resigned to become one of Reuter's correspondents, acting under Mr. R. M. Collins, Reuter's chief in the field. When Mr. Collins joined Kuroki on the latter's famous Spring march to the Yalu, Mr. Straight remained in charge at Seoul. Later he was relieved by Mr. Hagerty of the Associated Press, for at that time Melville Stone and Baron de Reuter were collaborating in the "covering" of the war. Mr. Straight next proceeded to Tokyo, where he acted under Martin Egan for a considerable time, and later was hurried back to China, reaching Sinmintun a few days previous to the battle of Mukden. He remained there during the Hunghutze outrages and left the day before Nogi's cavalry occupied the town, driving the Circassian mounted infantry Mukdenwards. Mr. Straight next proceeded to Peking, where it may be said his experiences as a war correspondent ended, there being a general lack of assignments. However, he had been so successful in the short time he had been engaged in newspaper work that he received the warmest recommendations from both Mr. Stone and Baron de Reuter, and there can be no doubt that the support of these two men greatly aided him in securing his appointment as U. S. Consul at Mukden, where he was temporarily relieved some time ago by Mr. F. Cloud, Vice-Consul at Shanghai. It is now expected that Mr. Straight's resignation from the Consular Service will result in the promotion of Mr. Cloud as Consul at Mukden.

The Ipoh paper says it is rumoured that an income-tax will be introduced in the Straits Settlements to replace the lost revenue from opium.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, June 28th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

LEUNG SHUI KONG V. THE IMPERIAL BANK OF CHINA.

Judgment on the appeal by Leung Shui Kong against the judgment delivered by His Honour the Chief Justice in this action was delivered by the Full Court yesterday.

Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop appeared for the appellant, while Mr. Orr appeared on behalf of the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., for the respondents.

The Chief Justice said the defendant in this action was sued as guarantor of one, Leung King Wo, an officer in the Imperial Bank of China, deceased. It was impossible to make a satisfactorily concise summary of the facts of the case, and it was hardly necessary, as the defendant had judgment on all points in the action, except one, and it was in respect of this part of the judgment that he was appealing. Stated briefly, the point on which judgment went against the defendant was in respect of what were called the "King Kee" accounts. He, the Chief Justice, had held that they were Leung King Wo's private accounts with the Bank of Tientsin, which were overdrawn. He held further that the circumstances in which these accounts were kept amounted to an admission by Leung King Wo as to their accuracy; that it was proved as far as such an account could be proved, and that the defendant was liable for the overdraft. Then came the question of law which depended on the change in the nature of the duties of Leung King Wo from manager at first to agent. Such a change in the nature of the duties of the person guaranteed would, in the absence of notice and assent, absolve the guarantor, but it had seemed to him that if there was running through both offices guaranteed one common ground of liability, the reason for this relief would cease to exist and the guarantor would continue liable. The question had assumed a considerable importance in the taking of the accounts consequent on the judgment, and it had become necessary for the defendants to challenge the principle on which he (the Chief Justice) had acted. He had intimated that in ordinary circumstances he should have had the point specially argued on the basis of his judgment on the other points, so that the question could be specially considered free from all other matters, but circumstances did not admit of it. The Court was working treble tides, and he was compelled to give judgment against the defendant on this point without being able to devote as much consideration either to the facts or the law as he should have wished, and without calling on counsel for assistance. The argument on the appeal had practically taken the place of the further argument which, if the time of the Court had been less occupied, he should have required in the first instance. Now that he had heard the question of law argued he found it was covered absolutely by authority, and that the law as he had laid it down was wrong. The case must be governed by the authority of *Honar v. Macdonald* (3 H. L. cases, 226) for the facts were in principle identical. He was therefore of opinion that the judgment which was entered for the plaintiff on this part of his claim must be reversed with costs.

Mr. Justice Gompertz concurred.

Sir Henry Berkeley applied for a stay of execution for three months.

Mr. Slade objected, as the plaintiffs were out of jurisdiction, and the defendants must use the utmost despatch and energy in order to get their costs.

The Chief Justice (to Sir Henry Berkeley)—You are a very rich and wealthy firm. Why do you want a stay?

Sir Henry Berkeley—To consider our position with a view to appeal.

Mr. Slade—We are prepared to give an undertaking to repay to them the costs if they are paid to us.

The Chief Justice—If a plaintiff out of the jurisdiction brings himself within the jurisdiction he must be treated like any other plaintiff.

Sir Henry Berkeley accepted the undertaking given by Mr. Slade.

THE HIP ON CO. APPEAL.

The decision of the Full Court was delivered on the appeal brought against the decision of the Chief Justice in the action in which the Hip On Exchange and Loan Co., Ltd., and the Hongkong and Manila Yuen Shing Exchange and Trading Co., Ltd., were appellants, Li Po Yung being respondent.

The Hip On and Yuen Shing Companies were represented by Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley); Kwok Yik Ting was represented by Hon. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon); Li Po Yung was represented by Messrs. M. W. Slade and E. Potter, who were instructed by Mr. F. Paget Hett (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett). Li Po Kam was represented by Mr. H. G. Calthrop, who was instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist).

In the course of a lengthy judgment the Chief Justice said:—I shall not dwell on the facts of the case at any length, for I find that my opinion of them has not varied since I heard the case; reflection has indeed only strengthened it. I shall for the sake of brevity only refer to one plaintiff, the Hip On, and to its manager, Tam Tsz Kong. The case of the other plaintiff company, the Yuen On, and of its manager, Ng Li Hing, is practically identical. I have called the transaction between Kwok Yik Ting and his friends, among whom was Tam Tsz Kong, and Tam Tsz Kong in his capacity as manager of the Hip On, the plaintiff company, bogus, and the syndicate arrangements mere fudge. I will endeavour to put this into more definite shape, which will serve as a summary of my opinion of the case. Kwok and Tam thought they saw a "good thing," but it was a good thing which was not to be had without some payment. They thought they could raise \$60,000 between them and their friends; this was the extent to which they would go in cash, the mortgage would produce the rest for payment of the existing mortgages, for purchase of the property and to provide a building fund. The plan of itself leant strongly towards undervaluation, but, on the other hand, it had to deal with a sufficiently large fund to leave a liability on the mortgagor to the Hip On, which was not apparently beyond his means. That it was all worked out very cleverly is shown from the fact that they brought the amount paid to within \$10,000 of what I call the true value. It is the usual case, so common in cases which come before this court, of an attempt to build mountains out of the materials of mole-hills, to make a little do the work of much, of what is popularly known as the "inverted pyramid." In this case the apex was \$60,000 in cash, and it is true that it was sufficiently substantial to have kept the pyramid in unstable equilibrium for some time, but the fact that this substantial sum formed the apex of the pyramid cannot invest the other main fact with a virtue it does not possess. And that fact is that Tam Tsz Kong, the member of the purchasing syndicate, was the manager of the Hip On, and directly the question of a "good thing," of not giving the proper value for the syndicate's own purposes cropped up, the conflict of interest and duty arose and the burden of upholding the *bona fides* of the sale was shifted on to him—that is to say, on him as manager of the Hip On. So I adhere to my view that the sale must be set aside.

Looking at the question on principle, the connection between setting aside a sale and compulsory redemption is very difficult to follow. The mortgage has two rights, a power of sale, or foreclosure; redemption is the relief which equity gives to stay the exercise of what would otherwise be an indefeasible common law right. It is to prevent the absolute forfeiture of the estate for breach of the condition, equity deeming it unreasonable that the mortgagor should retain for his own benefit what was intended for a mere security.

Why then should the mortgagor be compelled to redeem merely because the mortgagee has

exercised his power of sale wrongfully, and in such a way as to compel the Court to set it aside? The result would be that a wrongful exercise of the power of sale would be equivalent to foreclosure, and if redemption were made the condition of setting aside this sale, it would treat this action for the recovery of the balance of the loan as a foreclosure action, which it is not, and the plaintiff and the defendant as mortgagee and mortgagor, which they have all along been most strenuously contending they are not. The effect of the judgment I gave is that that revives, and with it the ordinary rights and obligations incident to a mortgage.

I maintain my opinion that in this case redemption should not be made the condition of setting aside the sale. The result is that the sale is set aside simply, which entails the following consequences:—First, that the relation of mortgagor and mortgagee between Li Po Yung and the Hip On is restored each with his normal rights. Secondly, that the question which Kwok Yik Ting has raised—Who is to compensate him for the improvements which he has made and the expenditure he has incurred in creating buildings on the property?—must be answered in the following way. It does not concern Li Po Yung, at least at present. The mortgagee and Kwok Yik Ting have chosen to enter into a sale which has to be set aside, he and his purchaser must arrange matters between them as best they can. The question is not before us, and is irrelevant to the present action. The same remarks apply to the mortgage to the Hongkong Fire.

I am quite satisfied, after the very exhaustive arguments that were addressed to the Court on the point, that my previous ruling on the matter of the release of Li Po Kam and its effect on Li Po Yung was erroneous and must be reversed. The appeals of the plaintiffs and of Kwok Yik Ting are both dismissed with costs, and the appeal of Li Po Yung is allowed with costs.

Mr. Justice Gompertz in the course of his judgment said:—It follows that in my view the sale should only be set aside on certain terms. It would no doubt be convenient to settle the decree in Chambers, but I think the proper order might be outlined as follows:—(1) An account to be taken of what is due under the mortgage for principal and interest; (2) An inquiry as to what allowance Kwok Yik Ting should have for improvements, which have increased the value of the property; (3) Li Po Yung to be credited with an occupation rent of the annual value of the unimproved land, as from the date of the sale.

LEAVE GRANTED TO APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

In the action in which His Excellency the Governor appeared as plaintiff, claiming for the performance of a specific contract, and in which His Honour the Chief Justice entered judgment for the defendant, Hon. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., Acting Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), applied for leave to appeal to the Privy Council.

Sir Henry Berkeley stated that this was an application for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the judgment of His Honour the Chief Justice. It would be within the recollection of His Honour the Chief Justice that this action was originally set down to be heard before the Full Court, but owing to an objection taken by Mr. Justice Gompertz the action was heard by the Chief Justice sitting alone. Counsel understood that the Chief Justice was sitting alone as the Full Court.

The Chief Justice—I intimated in my judgment how I sat.

Sir Henry Berkeley—As Full Court?

The Chief Justice—No.

Sir Henry Berkeley—Then as the only available judge of the Full Court?

The Chief Justice—Yes.

Mr. Slade—Or to put it in another way, as the only available Court in the Colony. The case was set down before you as being before the Full Court.

The Chief Justice—I don't think it matters much. Either there was no Full Court then or there is no Full Court now.

Leave to appeal was granted on the usual conditions as to payment of costs.

A COMPRADORE'S LIABILITIES.

The appeal was continued against the decision of the Chief Justice in the action in which Messrs. S. J. David and Co. proceeded against their compradore, Chan Ut Chiu, to recover \$648,816.

Messrs. D. MacNeil and C. G. Alabaster, instructed by Messrs. H. J. Gedge and A. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for the appellants (plaintiffs), while Hon. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston), represented the defendants.

Mr. MacNeil informed the Court that this was an appeal from a judgment delivered by the learned Chief Justice on December 23rd of last year. The action arose in the following circumstances: Messrs. S. J. David and Co. were claiming against their compradore a sum of \$648,816 odd, which they said he had agreed to pay them in respect of certain losses in business which the firm had done with Chinese. The agreement upon which Messrs. David relied, as appeared from the terms of the reply subsequently filed by the plaintiffs, was to be found in two documents; one an instrument of mortgage made between the compradore and Mr. Abraham Jacob David, a partner in the plaintiff firm, and the other an agreement made between the firm and the compradore. After referring to the pleadings, Mr. MacNeil stated that at the hearing learned counsel for the plaintiffs produced these two documents and called a witness to prove the losses alleged in the claim, and to show how they were made up. Learned counsel for the defendant called no witnesses, and rested the conditions of his case entirely upon argument as to the construction of the two documents.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I did not abandon the right to call witnesses. At the close of the plaintiffs' case I moved the Court that they had no case. The case of the defendant has rested, therefore, entirely on argument as to the construction of the agreements. Counsel for the defendant did not go into that branch of the defence which has no relation to the agreements. Upon those arguments as to the construction of the two documents the Chief Justice gave judgment in favour of the defendant, and it is from that judgment this present appeal is now being brought.

Mr. MacNeil, proceeding, said he did not feel it incumbent upon him to prove that Chinese compradores guaranteed their customers. And with the greatest possible respect to the learned judge who tried the case in the court below he should decline to search for "occult principles" on behalf of his clients. It did not seem to him, after having made some attempts in this direction, that if one went ever so deep one would get further than the old Common Law Mortgage. He respectfully submitted to the court that all the principles of law of mortgage which could be made applicable to the case of the plaintiffs in this matter had been placed before their Lordships already, and if they had not he would endeavour to put them before the court. The effect of the Chief Justice's judgment was that a man accepted an engagement as compradore upon the expressed condition (a) That he shall enter into a mortgage and into an agreement making him responsible for all money owing under that mortgage; (b) And who has agreed that his property should not be redeemed unless he paid certain losses on Chinese contracts as well as certain other monies; (c) Who has agreed that his property could be sold if he did not pay money owing on the mortgage; (d) Who has declared after giving a power of sale, that the power of sale could only be exercised by a person who was entitled to give a discharge for money owing on the mortgage; (e) Who has laid it down that the mortgagees might demand payment; (f) And if they did it, were to demand payment in writing; (g) And who has specifically contracted in the agreement to be fully responsible for all monies and losses mentioned in clause 8, except one loss which is nowhere mentioned in the other agreement except in general words which cover equally losses on Chinese contracts; (h) That \$55,000 should be held until he has paid what is owing under the mortgage to the firm's satisfaction. The effect of that judgment was that a person in those circumstances had not agreed to pay anything under the mortgage, and that,

Counsel submitted, would be a difficult finding for their Lordships to support.

The case stands part heard.

Tuesday, June 29th.

Mr. MacNeil proceeded with his argument. The points he wished the Court to have in its mind when it came to the construction of the agreement were—First, that it was a simple ordinary transaction; second, that the documents setting forth that transaction were prepared by an experienced and capable draftsman; third, that the parties were a firm and a compradore; fourth, that the compradore was engaged by the firm upon condition of his executing the mortgage and agreement; fifth, that the mortgage and agreement contained an enumeration of the compradore's duties, because (1) it was impossible to say that they were fully enumerated in the agreement, and (2) because one of them was enumerated in the redemption clause, namely, the duty of paying Chinese losses; Sixth, that inasmuch as the firm would not engage a compradore except upon condition that he entered into this mortgage and agreement it might be assumed that they considered his doing so would make it a little more certain that he would perform his duties if they allowed him to take them up. In fact, the terms of the mortgage and agreement did make it a little more certain that the compradore would perform his duties, the conclusion being that this mortgage was intended to secure the performance of the compradore's duties. Those were points Counsel desired their Lordships to have in mind when they came to consider the documents. It was not stated that the firm asked the compradore to be their compradore.

The Chief Justice—There is this fact, if the firm did not get this compradore they would have got another on the same conditions. I don't think that aspect can be overlooked.

The Puisne Judge—There is one other point, and I don't know whether it was touched on in the Court below. It occurs to me that apparently these losses took place at a time when, so to speak, the bottom had dropped out of the market. Can you assume that he intended to secure the firm in all their contracts, or was it not intended to secure them against the default of occasional customers?

Mr. MacNeil said it would be difficult to read that into it. These agreements were drawn up in contemplation of the ordinary course of business. That was to say, a man put up a small security to do a big business which everyone hoped was going to be done profitably. But a time of sudden disaster was liable to come, and then it was that the security proved totally inadequate. He quite understood what the Puisne Judge meant, and agreed with it, but these deeds were drawn up in contemplation of the ordinary course of business, and the ordinary course of business must involve the possibility of sudden disaster. Coming to the first point of construction, Counsel said he was prepared to maintain that this mortgage contained an absolutely unambiguous covenant to pay the losses under Chinese contracts, and for this simple reason that the mortgage contained an enumeration of the compradore's duties, and "duties" meant things which the compradore was bound to do, and if he chose to state in an agreement or a mortgage what his duties were he was compelled to perform his duties. If a man entered into the service of someone else to perform certain duties (the arrangement might be verbal), he undertook to do those duties when he entered that man's service. If, on the other hand, a party embodied the arrangement in writing the duties were undertaken in writing just as they would have been undertaken verbally in the first mentioned case. He maintained with great confidence that the compradore had undertaken expressly and without the smallest shadow of ambiguity to pay the losses incurred on Chinese contracts. It more was required, the mortgage deed gave express power to demand from the compradore the payment of Chinese losses. He would submit, further, that there was an equally expressed undertaking, quite free from ambiguous terms, in clause 8 of the agreement.

Mr. MacNeil, proceeding after tiffin, said the words in clause 8 of the agreement "as

aforesaid" required an absolutely rational meaning. They had, as far as he knew, no meaning in English except as mentioned above "and already referred to." Their Lordships might think he had not referred to them, but he said he had, and it was for the Court to say whether any words in that clause justified his statement that he had mentioned them.

Mr. Labaster said he would proceed to the points his learned friend had left untouched. The first of those was that the learned judge in the Court below had finally decided to ignore an admission in the bankruptcy proceedings on the ground that there was a well-known rule where an agreement was reduced to writing that evidence obtained was an admission. It was quite true that that was a general rule, but like many general rules it had exceptions, and there were two in this instance. The first was with regard to consideration found where a document which continued a contract between the parties expressly stated that there was no consideration, yet they were allowed to go elsewhere to prove there was consideration. The other exception was with regard to admission. The whole idea of a mortgage was to secure some obligation, and it could not be compelled to do any more than that. The effect of the judgment in the Court below was that these documents were meaningless.

The Chief Justice—I don't think that is the effect of it.

Sir Henry Berkeley—You've given our meaning, not theirs.

Sir Henry Berkeley, proceeding, told the Court it was well to remember at the outset the nature of this claim which the appellants made against the respondents. It was that the respondents should be liable for the debt or default of a third person. Such a liability was one which must, under the Statute of Frauds, be imposed by a writing—some written agreement or some memorandum in writing to testify to the agreement imposing the liability. In the covenant there was no implied liability to pay the debt of a third person unless that implication arose as of necessity from the construction of some written agreement or what was equivalent thereto. It was therefore at the outset clear that no such liability could be imposed. They had nothing to do with the business relationships of the parties by construing an agreement by which one sought to make the other liable to a debt of the third. An implication could only arise in the words used in the agreement, or to put it in another way, the agreement must in expressed language impose the liability to pay the debt, or from the language used, a necessary implication must arise therefrom. To carry his learned friend's contention on that point to a logical conclusion, there would be no necessity to have any *compradore's* agreement at all. It was evident that they had to look at the written terms of the agreement made between Messrs. S. J. David and the respondent and nothing else. The respondent in this case contracted in two distinct capacities: first of all he contracted as *compradore*, and then he contracted as surety for the *compradore*. In the second capacity of mortgagor the respondent was a surety, and he was entitled to all the protection which the Courts gave to a surety. The mortgage was a security of a surety, and would have to be construed with stringency. While there was an agreement between the parties there was no such agreement as set out in the appellants' statement of claim.

The hearing was further adjourned.

Wednesday, June 30th.

Sir Henry Berkeley stated that at the conclusion of Mr. MacNeil's address to their Lordships he submitted that no effect could be given to the documents—meaning thereby the agreements and the mortgage—unless the *compradore* was held liable to pay the losses sustained on Chinese contracts. His friend could only support that proposition by insisting that there might be or should be read into the mortgage, by means of the proviso for redemption, a personal contract to pay these losses. And his learned junior suggested that the effect of the judgment in the Court below was to render the documents what he described as meaningless; meaning thereby, Counsel supposed, that the documents had no meaning unless they were held to impose liability on the *compradore* to pay the losses

on Chinese contracts. Both the learned Counsel altogether overlooked the only construction to be placed on the documents by the usual interpretation to be put on the language in which those documents have been drawn. The effect sought to be placed on the documents by Counsel for the other side could only be given by straining the meaning to breaking point, and by implying something there was no warrant for implying. The effect that his learned friends contended for was altogether unnatural. The agreements were clear and unambiguous. A particular security was taken for the performance of a particular agreement, and that particular security consisted of the matters specified in the documents themselves. They consisted of, first, a cash deposit of \$25,000; and secondly, an assignment of specified landed property. It was contended by his friends, that if they were driven from the position they endeavoured to take up, that this proviso for redemption might be regarded as a personal covenant to pay; that at all events the contractor was liable under some simple contract liability which the documents were supposed to impose upon him. Where an agreement was expressed, nothing was to be implied. They had a clear, unambiguous, explicit agreement between the parties, and a clear and explicit security given for the performance of that agreement. It would be doing violence to the maxim he had cited to the Court, and to the language of the documents themselves, for the Court to imply any simple contract liability outside the words of the contracts themselves. It was not competent for the Court to adopt any such line as that suggested by his learned friends, but it was necessary no doubt for his friends to take up that line as a last trench.

Mr. Slade, after the *vism* adjournment, dealt with the law concerning mortgages. He said it was not a necessary part of a mortgage that there should be any covenant for payment of the money secured by the mortgage. There might be cases where a mortgage was made to secure the payment of money, and yet no liability, express or implied, on anyone. That was what he said in this case: there was a mortgage to secure certain payments, yet there was no liability, express or implied, on anybody to make those payments. The security for these payments was the land, and nothing but the land. His friend's suggestion was that there must be an obligation on every person who pledged his property.

Mr. MacNeil—Not necessarily by covenant.

Mr. Slade—I quite understand that. It must be either a simple contract obligation or under bond or covenant, or else it is not a mortgage. A man can perfectly well enter into a mortgage affecting his property without being under personal liability of any kind, sort or description.

Proceeding, Mr. Slade said his learned friend in the earlier portion of his opening, instanced the case of a surety as being one on whom there was no necessary implication of a personal liability. In the case of a surety for money lent; for instance, money is lent to a person, and another guarantees the repayment by that person, by a mortgage of his property. Unless there was a personal covenant there was no personal liability on the surety at all. The personal liability to pay the money by reason of the original debt was in the original debtor whom the surety secured by the mortgage of his property. The right of a mortgagor was first of all to require a reconveyance if he performed the conditions contained in the proviso for redemption. If he did that, then under the very terms of the deed the mortgagee was bound to reconvey, and could be compelled to. The next important right of the mortgagor was to obtain redemption of the property at any time before the mortgagee had lawfully parted with it. Right of redemption was an incident attached to a mortgage in whatever form, by equity. The rights of a mortgagee were, firstly, if it was a true mortgage, that he could obtain the property himself, for himself, by means of foreclosure. His right was at law, of course, to have the property on the default. But equity did not allow him to get rid of the right of redemption except by what was called the action for foreclosure. The Court of Equity appointed a specific day some months hence, by which date the mortgagor must redeem, or be forever debarred of his right to redeem. On the passing of that day

the Equity Court would refuse to further interfere, and would allow the mortgagee undisturbed possession under his legal title. The next right of a mortgagee, was one which was rarely accorded to him unless it was provided for in the deed, it was a power of sale. The next right a mortgagee had was to sue on any covenant or contract, either contained in the deed or outside the deed. Another right which the mortgagee had was to go into possession. That was strictly a Common Law right, because the property was being conveyed to him upon a condition which had been broken. His learned friend Mr. MacNeil stated that if a man accepted a post under a deed, and the post had obligations attached to it which were specified in the deed, then there was an implied covenant to perform those obligations. That was extremely specious, and sounded extremely right, but unfortunately the authorities were dead against it.

The hearing was adjourned.

Thursday, July 1st.

Mr. Slade, continuing his argument, went in detail through the mortgage and the agreement. From the recitals in the mortgage, he said, his learned friend deduced an obligation on the *compradore*, prior to the mortgage, to perform the conditions set out in the proviso for redemption. He submitted that not only would those words not bear that construction, but they absolutely negatived any suggestion of the kind. His learned friend argued that it was apparent from those words that there had been prior negotiation between the parties which had resulted in an agreement, and that the agreement must have been that the *compradore* would perform his duties. What these duties were, were to be found in writing set out in the proviso for redemption. In the first place, with regard to that argument, Counsel submitted that where negotiations had resulted in an agreement in writing, the Court could not consider what verbal agreement had been arrived at, but could only consider the agreement in writing. There were two agreements in writing in this case; one was called the mortgage and the other the agreement, but both might be described generically as contracts. The agreement between the parties having been reduced to writing, the Court not consider any antecedent agreement. He submitted the agreements in writing were plain: There was the mortgage as a pledge of the man's property and the subsequent agreement as to personal services. The conditions upon which the mortgagee agreed to comply with the requests were stated perfectly plainly and unambiguously. He agreed to comply with the requests upon the *compradore* entering into, first of all, a mortgage, and secondly, an agreement; or to put it in other words, upon first of all pledging his property and then entering into a personal contract.

Mr. MacNeil—Which the *compradore* had agreed to do.

Mr. Slade—Which the *compradore* had agreed to do. He entered into these two transactions so that on the face of the recital of the mortgage at the time when the mortgage was entered into he had not entered into the personal contract contained in the agreement, and it was not intended that that should be afterwards the intention of the parties so that the firm, through their partner the mortgagee, should have a pledge of the property before they obtained the services of the *compradore* as *compradore*. There was another reason beyond the words of the recitals why the Court could not possibly construe the previous negotiations and the verbal agreement, if there was one, and that was, that the terms of it were specified in the agreement in writing; and from the agreement in writing it was obvious that the agreement was not to be performed within one year—it was for a term of three years. Any verbal agreement not to be performed in one year, and not evidenced in writing, was a void agreement under the Statute of Frauds. A prior date could not be given to an agreement in writing than that which was shown on the face of it, and in the agreement in writing referred to, it was specifically stated that it was entered into after the mortgage.

The hearing was adjourned.

Friday, July 2nd.

Mr. MacNeil, in replying, dealt with the various points raised by Mr. Slade. He asked the Court to keep it clearly in their minds that the case he was meeting was not the case on which judgment was given in the Court below. He was meeting quite a different case, and a very much more difficult case for the defendants to succeed on. At the risk of contradiction, and in order to make the matter quite plain, he understood his friend's position to be with regard to the comrade's liability, that he was in virtue of his having accepted the position of comrade, and also by virtue of the terms of the mortgage and agreement, liable for some things, while for other things he is only liable by section 8 of the agreement. The obligation on the defendants was to show that the liabilities in the mortgage are in some way limited, and this they could not do.

The judgment of the Court was reserved.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE).

THE VALUE OF A DOG.

The case was mentioned in which A. W. Hott, chief timekeeper of the British section of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, sued Constable Grant to recover £250, being the value of a dog alleged to have been destroyed by the defendant.

His Lordship asked if this was the case arising out of damage done to a dog at Shatin?

Mr. Goldring (for the defendant)—Yes.

His Lordship—I hope the matter will be settled.

Mr. Holbrow (for the plaintiff)—I don't think it will be.

His Lordship—Is either party a policeman?

Mr. Goldring—Yes.

His Lordship adjourned the hearing for a week.

AN ALLEGED GAMBLING DEBT.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro appeared for the defendants in a case where money was sought to be recovered for an alleged gambling debt, and said he was going to raise the defence that the debt was contracted for an illegal purpose.

His Lordship—What is that?

Mr. D'Almada—A gambling debt.

His Lordship—You will have to give the defendant notice.

Mr. D'Almada—I will give him formal notice in writing.

The defendant said it was not a debt for gambling, but a case of money lent.

The hearing was adjourned for a week.

THE FIRE AT WEST POINT.

The fire which broke out on June 25th in one of the godowns of the Fuk On Insurance Company in Des Voeux Road kept the firemen, under Chief Inspector Baker and Superintendent Lane, hard at work for some five hours before they succeeded in mastering the outbreak. Mr. McCubbin, manager of the Gas Co., and a number of his men were the first to render assistance, appearing on the scene with a hose belonging to the Gas Co. and doing good work before the arrival of the Fire Brigade.

The godown, which was stored with general goods, was practically gutted. The value of the goods destroyed is placed at \$65,000, while the damage done by fire and water is estimated at \$45,000. The insurance on the goods in the godown in which the fire broke out, and in the one alongside of it, amounted to \$73,000, but on a large quantity there was no insurance.

BATHING FATALITY.

The second engineer of the s.s. *Arratoon Apar* named James Earnshaw was drowned in the harbour on Sunday evening. He disrobed and jumped into the water about seven o'clock, when to the consternation of those on board he never rose to the surface. Several companions immediately dived into the water and swam around for some time, and the party on board the launch *Mollie*, which was returning from a bathing excursion, also joined in the search without result. The deceased was only twenty-one years of age. The body has not yet been recovered.

RETIREMENT OF A POPULAR OFFICIAL.

PRESENTATIONS TO MR. A SETH.

A number of solicitors gathered in the Registrar's Office at the Supreme Court on the 30th ult. with the object of making a presentation to Mr. Arathoon Seth, Registrar of the Court, on the eve of his retirement. There were present—Messrs. M. J. D. Stephens, J. Hastings, F. P. Hett, R. A. Harding, J. H. Gardiner, R. D. Atkinson, F. X. d'Almada e Castro, Crowther Smith, P. W. Goldring, Otto Kong Sing, H. L. Dennys, Jr., and S. W. Tao.

Mr. STEPHENS, in making the presentation, said that the body of solicitors practising in this Colony felt that they could not let this occasion pass without expressing to Mr. Seth their great regret at his vacating the office of Registrar, Trustee and Official Administrator of the Court. Mr. Seth having acted so long and so carefully, they could not forget his readiness to assist them at all times, nor could they forget his invariable kindness to them. The speaker could not recall an occasion when there had been an unkind word from Mr. Seth during his term of office, and he was sure that not only the solicitors but the whole of the community would endorse his remarks as to Mr. Seth being both kind and courteous. The speaker expressed the wish that Mr. Seth would return to the Colony after a pleasant holiday benefitted in health, and assured him of a hearty welcome home from his old friends. The solicitors of the Colony took this opportunity to ask Mr. Seth to accept a few little souvenirs. First, there was a silver plate on which would be engraved "Presented to Mr. Seth by the solicitors of the Colony on his retirement from office." Other presents were a silver cigar case and a pair of binoculars. With the latter he could, as he left on his holiday, take a view of the Colony in which he had spent so many years. Mr. Stephens concluded by reiterating the wishes of the members of the junior bar that Mr. Seth would be favoured with a pleasant voyage and a safe return.

Mr. SETH, in accepting the presents, said he felt it was very kind of the solicitors to think of his retirement from the service. Whatever assistance he had rendered to the solicitors of the Colony he had only given from a sense of duty as Registrar. He believed it was the practice everywhere for the Registrar to work in accord with the solicitors, and he had endeavoured to do this to the best of his ability. He felt quite proud to think that on his retirement he had been made the recipient of such lovely presents from members of the profession. The gifts would be preserved as heirlooms, because it was not every day that a man got presents from a community of solicitors. When a man received presents from those with whom he had been in touch so long, such gifts would always be highly valued. As those present knew, he was not one who could make a long and affecting speech, but they could quite understand his feelings. He concluded by thanking all present very heartily for their kind thoughts of him, and stated that he hoped soon to return to the Colony to renew old friendships.

A FAREWELL TOAST.

Representatives of practically every Government department assembled in the small Supreme Court on Tuesday to bid *au revoir* to the departing Registrar. Among those in attendance were Sir Henry S. Berkeley, K.C., His Honour Mr. Justice Gompertz, Messrs. J. H. Kemp, C. D. Melbourne, F. J. Badeley, E. D. C. Wolfe, T. H. King, G. N. Orme, A. G. M. Fletcher, P. P. J. Wodehouse, G. H. Wakeman, J. R. Wood, G. A. Woodcock, A. Gibson, A. Chapman and E. A. Irvine.

Sir Henry Berkeley proposed the toast in singularly happy speech, in which he referred in eulogistic terms to the ability and good qualities of Mr. Seth, whom he described as his oldest friend in the Colony. Mr. Seth had been an energetic and loyal worker in the Government service since 1868, and that his services were highly appreciated was evidenced by the fact that His Majesty the King had been pleased to confer upon him the Imperial Service Order. He was sure all united in wishing him a pleasant holiday, and long enjoyment of the rest he had so well earned.

The toast was duly honoured, and Mr. Seth suitably responded.

LADIES' WHIST DRIVE AT KOWLOON.

Some little time ago, the friends of the members of the Dock Staff who had been the recipients of their hospitality throughout the last dancing season, presented to the Dock Staff, as a token of their appreciation of the hospitality accorded, a very handsome silver tea service and a silver rose bowl. These presents were to be competed for in whatever manner the committee decided, the tea service to go to the ladies and the bowl to the gentlemen. It was arranged by the committee that the tea service should go to the lady who should come out the winner in a whist drive and the bowl should form the first prize in a billiard handicap.

On Thursday evening there gathered together to contest for the possession of the tea service sixteen ladies. The "Drive" commenced at 8.30 and continued until 10.30. The two hours were very pleasantly spent, the whole of the arrangements being efficiently carried out by Messrs. Davison (Acting Secretary) and Lapsley (Treasurer). On the "Drive" being completed and the cards checked, it was found that Miss Parker headed the list with a score of 117.

Mr. STEWART (Chairman), in making the presentation, complimented the winner in terms very appropriate to the occasion, and also took the opportunity of expressing thanks on behalf of the whole staff to the visitors for the kindly spirit that prompted them to give such fine presents to be competed for. Mr. Nicholls responded on behalf of Miss Parker. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Davison and Lapsley for arranging the details.

It will perhaps interest the donors of the prizes to know that the Billiard Handicap has got as far as the second round. Good keen rivalry is the order of the day, and it is not yet possible to "spot the winner."

COPPER MINING IN CHINA.

RICH DEPOSITS DISCOVERED.

The British Consul at Kiukiang, in China, reporting on the trade of that district, states, that the richness of Kan Chou in copper deposits and their very high value have been amply proved by the investigations of an expert mining engineer engaged by the Chinese provincial Government. The copper exists under most extraordinary conditions, probably resulting from an expansion of gases in the interior of the earth pushing the granite to the surface, and bringing with it masses of sulphur, which gradually evaporating, left the deposits of copper.

The hills where the copper is found, called Chang Pai Ling, have previously been unsuccessfully worked by Chinese mining engineers, who sank their shafts in the wrong places, apparently mistaking stone coloured by iron for copper. The ore veins in these hills are in some places 9 feet wide. The most important deposits are the lowgrade ores, in which are embedded blocks of rich ore, the former being themselves embedded in barren stone. These blocks of rich ore near the surface indicate continuous veins at a depth of about 150 ft. The samples obtained contained 30 to 40 per cent. of copper. The Chinese engineers have reached a depth of about 75 ft., and with their present primitive methods they will not be able to go much deeper. They must therefore stop altogether or continue on modern scientific lines. If the mine were properly equipped with machinery to sink a shaft in the northern hill to a depth of 200 ft., and another in the northern conglomerate hill to a depth of 240 ft., it is practically certain, says the Consul, that both ores and natural copper would be found. The existing shafts prove that there is ore for 350 ft., carrying also some silver, and the deepest points show improvement. Metallic copper is found in paying quantities in the conglomerate hill, and the geological indications are that under this hill will be found the same vein with rich ore as is now mined in the shafts in the northern property. Proving the existence of the mineral ore vein under this conglomerate hill would show that the vein must continue for over 3,000 ft. from the shafts made by the Chinese engineers, and this would constitute a mine of great wealth.

FRICITION BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND JAPANESE COURTS.

The Peking correspondent of the *New York Herald* cabled the following message to his paper on May 22nd:—

Japanese resentment over the appointment of Prince Tsai Chen as special ambassador to thank Japan for sending a special envoy to the funeral of the late emperor presages possible friction between the two great oriental courts and serves to throw lime-light upon the failure of Japan's most recent effort to secure a pre-dominating position at Peking.

The selection of Prince Fushimi, Japan's highest ranking imperial prince, was made with a view to insuring to Japan the foremost position in the ceremonies attendant upon the Imperial Government with the idea of making an impression upon the Chinese Government and people, also with the belief that Prince Fushimi, who is looked upon as a diplomatist of the type of King Edward, would succeed in winning the friendship of the Prince Regent and the Manchu princes.

Acknowledgement that the mission failed at every point is revealed in the Japanese criticism of the selection of Prince Tsai Chen for the return mission. A number of blunders, contributing to that failure are freely admitted. While the Japanese here do not hold Prince Fushimi in the least responsible for these blunders, they charge the members of his suite with glaring mismanagement which resulted in giving offence to the Chinese Court, the diplomatic corps, and the whole Japanese colony of Peking.

Before his departure Prince Fushimi realized the mistake of cavalier treatment of the diplomatic corps, which was especially resented by General Palatzin, the special envoy of Russia, and sought by special attention to make amends. No effort was, however, made to salve the wounds of the unconsoled nationals of Japan.

If the construction now placed by the Japanese upon the appointment of Prince Tsai Chen is correct, there seems warrant for the assumption of these Japanese that the slights to Chinese princes have been cleverly countered by the Prince Regent, and in a manner the Japanese government cannot afford to notice.

Numerous wounds were, according to these Japanese critics, administered to Chinese imperial and official *amour propre*. Among other things it is cited that invitations sent imperial princes to Prince Fushimi's dinner in their honour, which was expected to be an event of great value in cementing the two courts, were couched in the most formal terms, bearing not the signature of Prince Fushimi but only that of an under official. The wording and form of these invitations aroused considerable resentment among the Chinese princes and court nobles, Prince Kung, one of the foremost, sending his back.

The Japanese construed it as evidence of the Prince Regent's displeasure over these alleged slights that he has selected Tsai Chen, a prince of comparatively low rank, instead of a prince of high rank like Prince Fushimi.

These critics, who have advised Tokyo Elder Statesmen of the situation, not only resent Tsai Chen on account of rank, but charge that he was compelled, two years ago, to resign the Presidency of the Board of Commerce and all his other offices on account of charges by the censorate involving his moral character, based on the alleged misuse of his official power in securing an appointment as provincial governor for a relative of one of his concubines.

In view of Japan's deep respect for Prince Fushimi, Japanese here declare that Prince Tsai Chen's appointment will increase the existing friction and may even precipitate a popular anti-Chinese outburst in Japan.

A JAPANESE POLAR EXPEDITION.

According to the *Asahi*, Mr. Kodama Otomatsu, said to be a well-known explorer in the South Sea Islands, who has been recuperating at his home in Fukuoka, left Moji by the *N.Y.K. Sado Maru* for further adventures in the Celebes and New Guinea. He will then proceed to Albany, West Australia, whence he will start in search of the South Pole.

ANOTHER OPIUM EDICT.

On the 17th inst. an Edict was issued "under the official seal of the Prince Regent on behalf of the Emperor" with regard to the Opium Question. It recalls the fact that an Imperial Decree was issued on the 24th day of the 2nd moon this year (15 March, 1902), ordering strict steps to be taken by the authorities concerned for the suppression of opium-smoking as well as the cultivation of the poppy. "It has now been brought to Our notice," says the Edict, "that, of the officials of various yamens in Peking sent to be examined as to whether they are opium-smokers or not, the majority of them are petty officials not occupying permanent positions, and that many of those holding important offices have not yet been sent to be examined. Moreover, there are those who have contracted the opium-smoking habit again after once getting rid of it, thus showing there is laxity in enforcing the Edict."

The Edict insists on the importance of suppressing the opium habit among officials, and notes that the reports with regard to the progress made in the direction of stopping the cultivation of the poppy in the Empire indicate that "strict steps have been taken to attain the desired end." Then follows this remarkable sentence, which possibly has suffered somewhat in the translation:—

"If opium smoking should be indulged in as heretofore after the entire suppression of cultivation, it would lead as a matter of course to the exclusive use of the foreign drug, thus deepening the opium-smoking habit, wasting more money, and increasing evil to an infinite extent, whilst it would be detrimental to the rules of sanitation and the means of subsistence of the people."

The High Commissioner for the Suppression of Opium is commanded to direct that all the Yamens outside Peking shall make strict investigations into the conduct of officials with regard to opium-smoking. At the same time the Provincial Viceroys, Governors, Generals, and Admirals, and all other officials concerned as well as school-masters are required to make investigations and to take steps calculated to wipe out opium-smoking among all officials, civil and military, and in schools in the various provinces. The suppression of opium-smoking and cultivation of the poppy must go on simultaneously. The various Yamens outside Peking are commanded to strictly observe the Edicts repeatedly issued; if they fail in this respect they are to be dealt with by the Government.

The Governor of Hunan in a report to the Throne states that he found on investigation that "over one thousand persons" among the civil, military and naval officials had acquired the opium-smoking habit, and a time-limit was set in which they are required to give it up. Anti-opium bureaux have been opened in forty different centres and about 20,000 persons in all have abandoned the habit. Cultivators have been ordered to grow wheat or rice in place of poppy, and inspectors have been ordered to see that these orders are obeyed. Anyone disregarding the instructions is threatened with severe punishment.

A CRY FROM CHINATOWN.

Complaints are rife in Chinatown as to the restricted water supply. At present the water is run only for two hours, a period which is quite inadequate to enable the people to get what they need for cooking or for washing purposes. There is a feeling that they ought to be allowed more, as in the tenements it means that the people occupying the first floors draw all the water and do not allow the others above them to obtain a supply at all. Even the street pipes are not sufficient to meet the demand, and it is generally known that folks have to wait there for hours and perhaps fail to get any even then, while the struggle to get water often leads to fights and disorderly scenes. The Chinese complain of the hardship of paying for a water supply which they do not get. It means in many cases that there is no water with which to wash in the morning and none to make the morning cup of tea. We pass on the complaint to those to whom it is intended it should reach.

HUMAN HAIR TRADE.

INCREASING EXPORTS FROM CHINA.

The American Vice-Consul-General at Hongkong (Mr. Stuart Fuller) supplies in a report to Washington the following information concerning the exports of human hair from China to the United States:

In the year 1907 56,133 pounds of human hair were invoiced at this consulate-general for shipment to the United States, while in 1908 207,414 pounds were declared for shipment. To comply with the quarantine requirements there are two courses open—storage under the supervision of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service surgeon at this port previous to shipment, or disinfection under the same supervision. In 1907 all the hair was stored before shipment, but in 1908 the demand was so much greater, and importers were so anxious to get the hair to the United States, that a heavy proportion of the shipments were fumigated and disinfected instead of being stored. It is also interesting to note that in 1907 over three-fourths of the total quantity moved by way of the Suez Canal, 42,780 pounds going that way, while only 13,344 pounds went via the Pacific lines. In 1908 the situation was somewhat changed. Partly to lessen the time of transit and partly because of efforts made by the Pacific lines to secure a greater share of the traffic, the exporters began to ship via Puget Sound ports and San Francisco, so that while the Suez route secured 112,119 pounds, the Pacific route handled 94,999 pounds. This hair is brought to Hongkong from the interior, and here cleaned and sorted according to length and quality. It is then packed and either stored or disinfected, in accordance with quarantine regulations, and shipped to New York. It is said here that the hair can be so treated in New York as to alter its colour and texture, and that it is used in making the switches, curls, and bands which are so fashionable in the United States at the present time. Last spring, when the demand in the United States for false hair began to assume considerable importance, one concern sent a man out here for the purpose of making direct purchases. Other concerns buy through local export houses.

DR. MORRISON AND THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Dr. Morrison, the *Times* correspondent at Peking, writes to the *North-China Daily News* the following letter:—

I ask leave to correct some of the misstatements regarding me which have been published by a certain section of the Japanese Press on the occasion of my recent visit to Japan. Delay in writing is due to my having neglected to read the papers while on my journey. It is only since I returned to Peking that I have realized the extent of the misrepresentation to which I have been subjected.

Interviews have been published with me which are fictitious. Statements have been attributed to me which I never thought of uttering.

I am represented to have assured the Premier, the Marquis Katsura, that I disclaimed responsibility for certain messages sent to *The Times* from Peking regarding the Fakumen Railway and Japanese policy in Manchuria. The story is an invention. I disclaimed and disclaim no such responsibility.

It is true that on January 26 I left Peking to be present in Shanghai during the sitting of the Opium Commission, and that I was absent until March 6: it is true that in my absence two messages were sent to *The Times* from Peking. The longer and more important of these messages made no reference to the Fakumen Railway; the other which dealt with Russian action in Manchuria contained an allusion to "the steady refusal of Japan to permit China to extend her own railway system for the development of the rich regions of Mongolia and Manchuria, west of the Liao River." Both these messages were statements of fact, they were sent by my friend and colleague, and I accept full responsibility for them.

I had the privilege of an interview with Count Okuma, and I found him, as on previous occasions, one of the most courtly and sympathetic of men. The story of his lecturing me upon my ignorance is a fabrication.

H.E. TANG SHAO-YI ON CURRENCY.

H. E. Tang Shao-yi, in a conversation at Shanghai, denied emphatically that he had ever sent any telegram to Peking advocating a dollar unit throughout the Empire, as had been asserted with much assurance by the native Press at the end of last February. His Excellency said that he adhered to the views expressed in his memorial (embodied in the Imperial Decree on Currency Reform of October 5), that the standard unit should be the Kuping tael. In order to avoid the inconvenience of so large a coin, he also wished to have a half tael, a mace, and a half-mace. The four coins would preserve a fixed ratio to each other. His reason for preferring the tael to the dollar was that the latter coin entered comparatively little into the nation's ideas and business practice. The dollar, His Excellency thought, scarcely extended beyond the Treaty ports, and though there was a large number of dollars in circulation he could see little difficulty in gradually calling them in. Finally, it must be remembered that the tael corresponded to the Chinese decimal system.

H.E. Tang admitted frankly that the great evil of the moment was the unrestricted issue of paper money, the beginning of which he attributed to the days of the Provisional Government in 1901, when solid old firms went bankrupt and new firms without capital or responsibility started up in all directions. On this subject he was understood to say that the law might be made more strict, and he assented to the suggestion that an Imperial Bank of China, working in relation with select provincial banks, would supply the remedy.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

GERMANS V. JAPANESE AT HANKOW.

A few days ago we published a telegram from our correspondent at Tokyo stating that the Foreign Office had received a report from the Japanese Consul at Hankow relating to the obstruction of Japanese trading in the interior of China, due, it is alleged, to the unwarrantable interference of the German Consul at Hankow on behalf of his nationals. The following, which is taken from the *Japan Herald*, supplies an explanation of the trouble:—

Chinese middlemen of German export firms at Hankow, which undertake the purchase of sesame in the interior of Honan—where German traders are forbidden to establish branches or to travel for business purposes—have demonstrated the fact that Japanese firms have founded stores contrary to Treaty provisions in Honan. Since they saw their business threatened by these illegal proceedings they denounced them to the Viceroy of Wuchang. In order to give more weight to their representation they associated themselves in their matter with the export firms with which they are related to persuade them to make simultaneous representations to the Viceroy. To guarantee the interests of German merchants against injurious actions in violation of treaties, the German Consul demanded of the Viceroy the withdrawal of the illegal Japanese trading-stations in the interior of Honan.

Thus it is ascertained:—

(1) That Japan and Germany both follow the policy of Equal Rights and the Open Door in China.

That there has been a transgression of Treaty right by the Japanese, since it is not a question of travelling merchants but of the foundation of Japanese branch stores outside of Treaty limits.

(3) That the stimulus to this charge of violation of Treaty rights was given by Chinese traders.

(4) That German merchants, as being the only foreigners injured, or at least being those most injured, by this violation by Japan of commercial policy in China recognised both by Japan and Germany, have insisted on the guaranteeing of Treaty rights and have hence demanded the withdrawal of the Japanese establishments.

(5) That a German Consulate would never have undertaken to support this demand in the name of the German mercantile community had there not been an obvious violation of Treaty rights.

ADMIRAL LAMBTON AND THE BACON LETTERS.

A MEMORANDUM TO THE SQUADRON.
Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton, Commander-in-Chief of the China Squadron, writes:—

Sir,—The honour of the Admiral approved by the King to command the British Fleet in the China Seas cannot be a matter of indifference to His Most Gracious Majesty's loyal subjects residing in the Far East, therefore I trust you will be able to find space to publish the subjoined Memorandum which I have felt it my duty to issue.

Your obedient servant,

HEDWORTH LAMBTON.

King Alfred at Weihaiwei,
June 19th, 1909.

Memorandum.

I have the honour to draw the attention of Captains, Officers and Ships' Companies to the following question and answer in the House of Commons on May 10, which enabled the Admiralty to accede promptly, justly, and honourably to my telegraphic request of May 7 that my honour should be publicly vindicated:—

"Mr. Brooke (L., Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley) asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether, having regard to the statements alleged to have been quoted from a private letter of three years ago to the First Sea Lord, the Admiralty have ever regarded Vice-Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton as an agitator in the Naval Service."

"Mr. McKenna replied that the Admiralty have never regarded Admiral Lambton as an agitator. His record is most distinguished, and the high appreciation in which his service, both in peace and war, have been held by successive Boards is shown by his rapid advancement and long succession of important appointments. No statement in the private letter can be reasonably interpreted as an allegation that Admiral Lambton was an agitator."

The *Times* newspaper reported Sir George Armstrong's speech concerning Captain Bacon's letter to Sir John Fisher containing the offensive phrase I objected to, viz.:—"Service agitation headed by Lord Charles Beresford and Admiral Lambton," and also published Mr. McKenna's explanations in the House of Commons on the subject, but for reasons best known to itself, although the matter is of great interest to all those who cherish respect for the time-honoured traditions of the Navy, has omitted the above vindication of myself by the Admiralty.

This unfortunate omission on the part of *The Times*, to which journal many people trust for their Parliamentary intelligence, necessitates my issuing this Memorandum, which is to remain on the notice boards of each vessel in the China Fleet for one week after receipt on board.

HEDWORTH LAMBTON,

Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief
To the Commodore, the respective Captains
and all concerned on the China Station.

CHINESE POST OFFICE AND THE FOREIGN ADMINISTRATIONS.

The following is extracted from the Report on the working of the Imperial Chinese Post Office for the 34th year of Kwang Hsu (1908):—

Relations with Foreign Administrations have been friendly, cordial reciprocity being the aim and object of the Chinese Post Office in all its international dealings. During the year the Chinese Post Office at Shanghai has been constituted into a Central Office, to deal with the withdrawal of international correspondence and correction of addresses, at the request of the Union Administrations. The procedure is in conformity with that prescribed in Article XXX. of the Detailed Regulations of the Universal Convention of Rome, and proper notice of this further improvement in I.P.O. practice has been given to all administrations through the intermediary of the International Bureau of Berne. As will be found further on explained, the colours of certain Chinese stamps have been changed in order to bring them in accord with those conventionally adopted throughout the Union. A long-pending Agreement with

Russia, postponed from last year owing to the lamented death of the late Minister to Peking, Mr. Pokotiloff, has been happily concluded, and others are similarly contemplated with Japan for exchange of all classes of mail matter and of postal parcels, and with Hongkong for a parcel post. All foreign Agencies open at various places have been maintained: they are particularly numerous in Manchuria. The Russians have regular Post Offices at Harbin and Kwanchengtze, and at certain stations on the Chinese Eastern Railway. A Russian courier conveys Russian Government despatches between Peking and Harbin, and the Russo-Chinese Bank has a special service between Kwanchengtze and Kirin. Japanese Post Offices are found at Mukden, Antung, and the most important of the trade marts in Manchuria; also along the South Manchuria and Antung lines, where railway employees act as postal agents. A British Agency, under Hongkong, opened at Tientsin in 1906, was to have been closed in autumn 1907, owing to the heavy loss entailed in its working; but the British Municipal Council came to its rescue and guaranteed the estimated loss (\$7,500 until October 1908). Last September it was again on the verge of being closed, but once more the British Municipal Council, assisted by the British Government, gave a guarantee to the Hongkong Government to furnish half the estimated deficit (\$8,800), and so it has a new lease of life until September 1909. In October 1908 the Germans at Tientsin ceased to send a special military mail between Tientsin and their military camp at Tangku, and now exclusively use the Chinese Post Office. The Chief Superintendent of the British field post office left for India in 1908, and the base office was moved from Tangku to Tientsin, the offices at Lutai, Tangshan, and Shanhaikwan being closed. At Chefoo the Japanese Post Office maintains a savings bank, which is well patronised; and the Germans, a telephone and telegraph service, which is said to do well. At Chungking the French Post Office is reported to be about to close, for want of any business to do. At Shanghai the local delivery carried on for some years by the Chinese Post Office of international mail matter arriving by foreign mail boats having developed into a complicated and costly service, revised arrangements have been made with the German, French, and Russian Post Offices, and it is expected that the American will also at a later date agree to the same arrangement. The Japanese prefer to undertake their own delivery both at Shanghai and other places.

THE SOUTH MANCHURIAN RAILWAY.

RESULT OF HALF-YEAR'S WORKING.

The result of the working of the South Manchurian Railway Company for the half-year ending March 31 last was very satisfactory. The gross receipts for the period amounted to Y10,656,340 and the expenses to Y9,314,552, leaving a net profit of Y1,341,789. It is noted in the accounts that the gross profit of the railway department amounted to Y5,590,072 against Y2,331,393 for the corresponding period of the preceding year, while the profit of the colliery department amounted to Y520,979 against Y254,192.

The principal item of expenditure for the half-year under review was the amount of Y2,110,000, set aside to balance the difference between the face value of the debentures and the actual amount received for them. For the corresponding period of last year, the expenditure under this head amounted to not more than Y58,500. The interest paid on the debentures amounted to Y1,820,000, against Y97,000. Despite these increases in expenditure, a net profit of Y1,341,788 was left, as stated. The large increase in profit was chiefly due to the large amount of beans and bean cake handled. Owing to the increased transport capacity of the line with the broad gauge, the total quantity of freight carried during the period amounted to 672,000 tons, an increase of 420,000 tons on the figures for the corresponding period last year. The revenue from passenger traffic showed a decrease of £209,000, which was due to a decline in the number of passengers travelling short distances and also to an alteration in the fares.

COMPANY MEETING.

MESSRS. H. PRICE AND CO., LD.

The second ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in Messrs. H. Price and Co., Ltd., was held at the Company's offices, 12, Queen's Road Central, on the 25th ult. Mr. P. Loureiro presided, and there were also present—Messrs. A. Rumjahn (director), A. E. Robinson (manager), J. J. Blake, Ellis Kadoorie, Chan Kai Ming and Lo Tsz Chun.

The Manager read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days past I propose to follow the usual custom to take them as read. As you will notice from the balance sheet, the directors have thought it advisable, after writing off all apparent bad debts, to make a further provision of \$2,000—as a reserve for bad and doubtful debts. The directors regret that the result of the past year's working has not been so satisfactory as we wished to have seen, but taking everything into consideration it must be admitted that on the whole, the result is satisfactory. Our business showed an increase of about 25 per cent. over the previous year, in spite of the depression which was still with us and which has not yet shown much sign of improvement. The exchange has been against us, during the whole period under review, but in order to induce the support of the public we have not deemed it advisable to increase our prices, which were on a 2/- dollar basis. Before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts for the year 1908 I shall be pleased to answer any question that may be put to me to the best of my ability.

Mr. BLAKE—There is one item on the balance sheet, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to draw attention to, and that is, bad and doubtful debts. I think the amount shown is enormous, and that with a little care this could be greatly reduced. As we all know, there are certain individuals going round in this Colony getting credit without having any intention of paying.

The CHAIRMAN—We fully appreciate all you have said. On this point the directors at every meeting have impressed upon the manager the necessity of bringing pressure to bear upon those who have not met their accounts within a certain period. But we must certainly understand that in a business like ours we must not press people too much, because others are only too glad to get the business.

Mr. BLAKE—Are these bad and doubtful debts contracted by residents, or in the harbour?

The CHAIRMAN—I cannot tell exactly, but I should say they are pretty well divided.

No further questions being asked the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. BLAKE seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants are ready, and may be had on application to the manager. Thank you for your attendance gentleman.

The report and accounts were as under:—The Directors have the pleasure to submit their Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1908. The net profit for the period amounts to \$10,019.75, to which has to be added the balance brought forward from 1907, \$251.05, leaving \$10,270.80 at the credit of Profit and Loss Account, which the Directors propose appropriating as follows:—

To pay a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the year, viz.: 80 cents per share on 12,000 shares, absorbing	\$9,600.00
To carry forward to next account	670.80
	<hr/> \$10,270.80

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the year ended 31st December, 1908.

Dr.

To depreciation of furniture 12 months at 10 per cent. P.A. ... \$	469.93
To reserve for bad and doubtful debts	2,000.00
To directors' and auditors' fees ...	2,900.00

To balance transferred to balance sheet	10,270.80
	<hr/> \$ 15,640.73

Cr.

By balance brought forward from last account	\$ 251.05
By balance of working account	15,389.68
	<hr/> \$ 15,640.73

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER.

LIABILITIES.

Nominal Capital—15,000 shares of \$10 each	\$150,000.00
Subscribed Capital—12,000 shares of \$10 each fully paid up	\$120,000.00
Sundry creditors	54,407.67
Special reserve	5,000.00
Reserve for bad and doubtful debts:—At 31st December, 1907	\$2,000.00
Deduct bad debts written off during 1908	1,944.95
	<hr/> \$55.05
Add transfer from Profit and Loss account	2,000.00
	<hr/> 2,055.05
Profit and Loss account	10,270.80
	<hr/> \$191,733.52

ASSETS.

Furniture, fittings and machinery: At 31st December, 1907	\$ 4,699.39
Less depreciation for the year at 10 per cent. P.A.	469.93
	<hr/> \$ 4,229.46
Additions during the year	1,392.44
	<hr/> \$ 5,621.90
Goodwill, as per last balance sheet (paid for in shares)	60,611.09
Investment, as per last balance sheet	100.00
Stock in hand	64,379.45
Sundry debtors	\$56,974.74
Less reserve for discounts allowable	1,500.00
	<hr/> 55,474.74
Payments in advance	1,629.64
Cash:— At National Bank of China Ltd	\$ 2,403.12
At International Banking Corp'n.	105.09
In hand	1,408.49
	<hr/> 3,916.70
	<hr/> \$191,733.52

THE TRADE OF HONGKONG.

The Harbour Master, Commander Basil Taylor, R.N., in his annual report for the year 1908, writes as follows:—Hongkong being a free port there are no reliable statistics of other Imports and Exports except as regards certain items of cargo, dealt with in the Colony, of which, either from their nature and the circumstances under which they are imported, or from the fact that they are required by law to be specially reported, substantially accurate returns can be given. These items are Coal, Kerosene oil (which includes all products of petroleum), Opium, Morphine, Compounds of Opium, and Sugar. The figures for the three latter will be found in Appendix B.

1,018,753 tons of Coal were imported during the year. This shows a practically negligible increase of 13,886 tons (1.3 per cent.) over the Imports during 1907.

Of Bulk Oil 61,818 tons arrived, an increase of 17,938 tons, or 40.8 per cent. This appears to have no special significance, but to be entirely due to the cheap freights ruling, and to the new installation, by the Standard Oil Co., of oil tanks at Lychee-kok, which required filling. 40,018 tons of Case Oil arrived, being an increase of 3,289, or 8.9 per cent. over the 1907 figures. Here, again, the cheap freights were taken advantage of to fill up stocks.

Liquid Fuel increased from 3,272 tons in 1907 to 13,832 tons in 1908, and was probably affected by the same causes as were Bulk and,

Case Oil, in addition to which there has been an increased demand for this product, owing to more steamers using liquid fuel having visited the Colony during the year.

The import of Rice appears to have declined from 956,000 tons 721,000 tons, due to the falling off in the rice trade from Saigon and Bangkok in consequence of the exceptionally good crop in Northern and Central China, with the result that prices at Shanghai and the Yangtse ports ruled considerably lower than in Siam and Annam. Local dealers naturally bought in the cheaper market, and there was no demand for Southern rice. At Bangkok, I understand, there was the further factor of a species of boycott instituted by the rice merchants against the N. D. L. steamers, (late Scottish Oriental) which do all the carrying trade between that port and this Colony. As the greater part of the rice imported here is re-exported by sea to ports in China other than Canton, and the majority of that so imported last year came from China itself, it is reasonable to presume that, in the absence of the usual supply of Siamese and Annamese rice in this Colony, those Chinese ports which usually draw their supplies here went to the North for their rice, where a superabundance was available at very moderate prices. The rice trade from the South having now reverted to its usual conditions, I see no reason to doubt that this year will see it restored to its former channels,—i.e., *via* this Colony.

Flour appears to have decreased from 147,000 tons to 91,000 tons, probably due to the fact that the Colony is ceasing to be the distributing centre for this commodity. Shipments are now made directly from Ports on the Pacific Coast of North America to Shanghai, Amoy, Singapore, &c., instead of transshipping here, as heretofore.

There is a possibility that, the Hongkong Milling Company being in liquidation, some small recrudescence in this branch of trade may occur.

The total reported Imports during the year amounted to 4,170,000 tons, against 4,366,000 tons in 1907, a decrease of 4.4 per cent. Exports also show a decrease, from 2,354,000 tons to 2,103,000 tons or 10.7 per cent., and transit cargo declined from 3,396,000 to 3,373,000 tons or 0.7 per cent., but for the reason given these figures are not reliable.

OFFICIAL SUMMER MECCA OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Long before the next hot season begins, says the Manila Cablenews, Baguio will be something more than a mere summer resort, something more than an isolated icicle in the sizzling sea of the peerless Philippine paradise. It will be an incorporated city and the official summer capital of the archipelago, so created and legalized by a prospective act of the Philippine Commission.

George A. Malcolm, assistant attorney in the office of the Attorney-General, has gone to Baguio to aid in the equalization of street assessments which will become operative as a part of the coming municipal regime there. These assessments will be at a ratio calculated to benefit the property holders in proportion to the amount invested. Persons who have made heavy improvements on their lots in the township will pay a smaller pro rata than the smaller investors, and those who have done no building whatever on their lots may have to pay as high as 25 per cent. for street gradings and other improvements.

Mr. Malcolm will also be designated to draw up the articles of incorporation of the new municipality of Baguio, and to submit to the Commission a draft of a proposed city charter. Its provisions have not been decided upon, but it is understood that Igorotte headmen will be represented in at least an advisory capacity, and that all administrative control of the city will be under the personal direction of the governor-general.

This project is in accordance with the long-cherished plan of Acting Governor-General Forbes to make the most of Baguio and its natural advantages. A number of government buildings are to be built, and it is expected that more bureau chiefs and other government officials will get on the band wagon by buying lots and erecting summer residences.

HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.

THIRD MEETING.

Patrons: His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.; His Excellency Vice-Admiral Hon. Sir Hedworth Lambton, C.B.; His Excellency Maj.-Genl. R. G. Broadwood, C.B.; Rear-Admiral H. Lyon, R.N. Committee: The Stewards of the Hongkong Jockey Club (Ex Officio). The Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G. Messrs. J. Johnstone, J. A. Jupp, H. P. White, G. K. Hall Brutton, John Paterson and Major W. A. Eaton, Judge; Mr. J. A. Jupp and Major W. A. Eaton, Handicappers; Messrs. H. P. White and F. B. Deacon, clerks of the scales; Mr. H. G. Gedge, Starter; Mr. Paterson, 2nd Starter; Mr. M. S. Sassoon, Time Keeper; Mr. C. Gordon Mackie, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The third meeting of the season proved very successful. There was not perhaps such a large attendance as at previous gymkhanas, due no doubt to the heat, but the sport was quite as good. Everything passed off without a hitch, a tribute to the admirable arrangements, and the afternoon's pleasure was enhanced by the selections played by the Buffs' Band. A feature of the meeting was the success of Mr. Johnstone, who came in first in four races, secured leading honours in tent-pegging, and just lost winning the last race by a neck.

Details of the six events set down in the programme are appended:

ONE MILE FLAT RACE—For Subscription Griffins of Season 1908/09. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners of one race at this Season's Gymkhanas or at 1909 Meeting, 10 lbs. extra; two or more races 14 lbs. extra. To be ridden by Owners.

Mr Blank's Grey Back, 169 lbs (owner) 1
Mr F. B. Deacon's Butcher, 162 lbs (owner) 2
Mr H. G. Moore's Lyemun, 155 lbs (owner) 3

The opening race only brought out three entries and the item was naturally robbed of much of its speculative element. Grey Back justified the general confidence, winning comfortably. The start was even—Grey Back, Lyemun and Butcher, this order being maintained the greater part of the distance. The field, spread out on passing the football club stand, but bunched again at the village. Then Grey Back and Lyemun raced neck and neck into the straight, but the former reached home comfortably, Butcher just beating Lyemun on the post for second place. Time, 2.21. Parimutuel, \$17.70. Cash sweeps, \$198.45; \$56.70, \$28.35.

GYMKHANA STAKES.—Value \$100. Distance one mile. For all China Ponies. Catch weights at 10 st. 6 lbs. Winners of an open race or open Griffins race 5 lbs. extra. Non-winning Subscription Griffins allowed 5 lbs. Jockeys who have not won more than two official races in Hongkong, Shanghai or Tientsin allowed 5 lbs. A Cup called the Gymkhana Cup will be presented at the end of the Season to be won by the Pony scoring most marks in the races for the Gymkhana Stakes at the Gymkhana meetings during the Season; counting 4 points for a first; 2 for a second; and 1 for a third. The benefit of marks already scored to pass with the Pony on a sale. Any winner of the race to carry 5 lbs extra for each win in subsequent starts for the Race.

Points awarded up to date are as follows:—Garth, 8; Triad, 6; Sportsman, 1; Best Friend 1. Mr Dryasdust's Triad, 146 lbs, 5 lbs allowance (Mr. Mackie) 1
Mr Dryasdust's Best Friend, 151 lbs (Mr Dupree) 2
Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's Garth, 156 lbs (Mr Johnstone) 3

Garth and Best Friend set off in company, with Triad behind, an order which was maintained all the way past the rock. Coming into the straight it was seen that Best Friend was making the pace for its stable companion which shot ahead and won by about ten yards from Best Friend, Garth being as far behind the other.

Time 2.07-2/5. Parimutuel, \$12.40. Cash sweeps, \$324.45, \$92.70, \$46.35.

THREE QUARTERS OF A MILE, HANDICAP.—For all China ponies. In the event of top weights not starting weights to be raised all

round, i.e., top weight starting to carry 166 lbs. Mr J. Johnstone's Hertzblatt, 156 lbs (Mr. Johnstone) 1
Hon. Mr W. J. Gresson's H. H. 159 lbs (Mr Mackie) 2
Mr F. B. Deacon's Dart, 166 lbs (Mr Dupree) 3
Mr O. C. R. Hill's Dreadnought, 160 lbs (Mr. Moore) 0
Mr Leeson's Soudan, 157 lbs (owner) 0
Mr Blank's Sir Joseph, 154 lbs (Mr Morfey) 0
Lieut. Beckwith's Cavalier, 145 lbs (Mr Lyons) 0

Commodore Lyon was thrown on the starting line, but he landed on his feet. His mount, however, broke through the boundary and disappeared. Dart got the advantage at the start, Sir Joseph being second, left several lengths behind. Hertzblatt soon took his place in the van with Dart, followed by H. H. These three led till the home straight, when Hertzblatt came away strongly, and won by fully a length from Dart. Time 1.34-4/5. Parimutuel, \$10.30. Cash sweep, \$412.65, \$117.90, and \$58.95.

INDIVIDUAL TENT-PEGGING COMPETITION.

—China ponies only to be used. Best of three runs, 3 points for a Carry; 2 for a Draw and 1 for a Touch. The Judge has at his disposal 2 points for pace and style over all three runs. Lance exercise will not count towards style. Lances as supplied by the Club, or of a similar pattern must be used. A Cup will be presented at each Competition by the Hongkong Gymkhana Club.

Mr John Johnstone... 1
Major Eaton—"The Buffs."... 2
Mr W. S. Dupree... 3
Captain Parker—"The Buffs."... 3
Mr C. H. Maxwell...
Mr C. H. Blason...
Mr M. M. Brice—"The Buffs."...
Captain Finch.—R.A.
Mr H. G. Moore.—R.A.
Mr F. Thicknesse.—R.
Captain Leah.—R.A.
Lieut. R. P. Wedd—"The Buffs."...
Mr H. J. Gedge...
Mr G. C. Moxon...
Mr Potter—"The Buffs."...

The points were:—Johnstone, 11; Eaton, 10; and Dupree, 9.

Cash sweeps, \$327.60, \$93.60, and \$46.80.

HURDLE RACE. One mile and a quarter. Over not less than eight flights of hurdles. For all China ponies. Catch-weights 11st. 5lb. Jockeys who have not won more than two official races in Hongkong, Shanghai or Tientsin allowed 5 lbs.

Mr Johnstone's Blue Ruin 159 lbs (owner) 1
Mr Dryasdust's Best Friend, 159 lbs (Mr Dupree) 2
Messrs. D. L. M's Tamar, 155 lbs... 3
Major H. Findlay's Polo Stick, 166, 7 lbs... 0
Mr Gegg's The Gift, 154 lbs (Mr Mackie)... 0
Captain Leah's Macao, 154 lbs, 3 lbs allowance (Mr Monteith) 0
Mr Thicknesse's Have a Bag 162, 3 lbs overweight (owner) 0

Blue Ruin showed the way to Macao and Best Friend, but The Gift, which spent himself previously to the start by running off, was left at the post. On passing the stand the order was Polo Stick, Have a Bag, Macao and Blue Ruin, but at the football stand Johnstone had steered his mount into the van, Polo Stick now holding second place and Best Friend third. The position was maintained over the back hurdle, and Blue Ruin entered the home straight with a lead of twenty lengths from Polo Stick. Best Friend successfully challenged Polo Stick for second place, and might have reached home first had he not swerved at the last hurdle, which was cleared in fine style by Blue Ruin. Tamar, with a good spurt, just beat Polo Stick for third place. Parimutuel \$12.80. Cash sweeps, \$406.35, \$116.10, \$58.05.

ONE AND A QUARTER MILE FLAT RACE, HANDICAP.—For all China Ponies. In the event of top weights not starting weights to be raised all round, i.e., Top weight starting to carry 161 lbs.

Mr Leeson's Seafoam, 153 lbs (Mr Dupree) 1
Mr J. Johnstone's Just-in-Time, 161 lbs (owner) 2

Mr Blank's Greyback, 150 lbs

(Mr Morfey) 3

Hon. Mr J. Gresson's Lammerton, 135 lbs (Mr Mackie) 0

A good start saw Greyback well to the front, with Just-in-Time and Lammerton in close attendance, but at the rock Lammerton had dropped into fourth place and Seafoam had taken third. Nearing the village the leaders ran neck and neck but at the bend Just-in-Time drew ahead. Seafoam, however, came up strongly and after a hard race between Greyback and he was able to challenge Just-in-Time, whom he passed almost on the post. Time 2.45. Parimutuel \$12.20. Cash sweep, \$577.55, \$159.30, and \$79.65.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

JAPANESE OBSTRUCTION AT HANKOW.

Tokyo, June 28th.

In connection with the Hankow affair the Viceroy has acceded to the Japanese demands.

ANGLO-JAPANESE EXHIBITION.

Tokyo, June 28th.

The Japanese Weavers' League have passed a resolution to participate in the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition, thus annulling their previous decision.

TOKYO HOTELS.

Tokyo, July 2nd.

Considerable surprise has been caused by the sudden closing of the Metropole Hotel in Tokyo, and the dismissal of all foreign employees in the Imperial Hotel, controlled by the same Company.

The Directors of the Hotels state that this has been done for reasons of economy.

THE SUGAR SCANDAL IN JAPAN.

Tokyo, July 4th.

Judgment has been given in the case in which several directors of the Dai Nippon Sugar Co., are charged with bribery and other offences.

One of the persons accused has been acquitted, and twenty-three have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from ten down to three months, with hard labour, and in addition fined sums varying from twenty thousand to four hundred yen, the equivalents of the amounts received as bribes.

The convicts have been given their liberty pending the hearing of their appeal to a high court.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

DEATH OF A VICEROY.

Peking, June 28th.

The Viceroy of Chihli (Yeung Shi Sheung) died at midnight on the 25th inst.

[The Prince Regent entertained a very high opinion of the late Viceroy. When the Viceroy three months ago sent in a detailed report upon the *corvées* of his province, their abuses and proposed reforms, the Regent wrote the following minute (presumably for the Emperor): "Very good, indeed! The Government has the people's difficulties at heart, and this memorial appreciates the fact, thereby showing that one high officer at least knows his duty. Well done! Go on! Persevere!"]

VICEREGAL CHANGES.

VICEROY CHANG TRANSFERRED.

Peking, June 29th.

H. E. Tuan Fang, now Viceroy of Nanking, has been appointed Viceroy of Chihli.

H. E. Chang Jen Chung, now Viceroy of the Two Kwang Provinces, has been appointed Viceroy of Nanking.

Yeang Shu Fan, now Governor of Shantung, has been appointed Acting Viceroy of Canton, and Shun Po Ki is appointed to act as Governor of Shantung.

COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS:—

RICE

SAIGON.—Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co. in their latest circular dated Saigon 25th June, report:—Our last circular was issued on the 28th ultimo and the latest postal advices received since are as follows:—Hongkong 22nd instant; Yokohama 11th instant; Manila 18th instant; Java 18th inst.; Singapore 21st inst. and London 28th ult.

We quote for July to August delivery.

No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam milled round	•
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (round)	\$3.50
5 % Cargo steam milled round	3 16
10 % Cargo steam milled round	3 10
20 % Cargo steam milled round	3 00

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

The following is a statement of this year's Exports of White Rice, Cargo Rice and Paddy:—

Destination.	Total pes.
Hongkong	57,233
Manila	14,790
Ilo-ilo	3,053
Cebu	20,945
Japan	21,689
Singapore	28,246
Batavia	20,856
Samarang	1,215
Sourabaya	31,933
India	4,062
Ceylon	812
Madagascar	30
Réunion	11,895
Mauritius	12,202
Egypt	18,486
Australia	1,232
Europe	137,646
Total	396,325
Same period of last year	492,871

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, July, 5th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,140/1,160 per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,110/1,200 do.
Malwa Older	\$1,210/1,250 do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,260/1,320 do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,050/1,100 do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$900/1,000 do.
Patna New	\$980 per chest.
Patna Old	\$— do.
Benares New	\$1,005 do.
Benares Old	\$995 do.

JAPANESE MARKET.

Kobe, 16th June.—Cotton.—American.—The acreage and crop report issued by the Agricultural Department of the States declared bales 31,918,000 and 81.1 per cent. respectively. Although the former is slightly below that of the past year, the condition of crop being above market expectations, quotations have fluctuated with upward tendency, and at the close are firm. Latest price of forward Middling is given at Yen. 35.65. "Spot" being reported at Yen. 34.00. Indian.—The demand in the home market being large, prices have been maintained on a high level, the market, however, appears to be weak for new crop, owing to favourable weather prevailing. Unsold stock in Bombay is reported to be about 100,000 bales only, although the total stock is estimated at 440,000 bales. "Spot" is quiet, doubtless due to high rates and to the closing of accounts of mills for the half year. "Spot" quotations are:—Broach 29.50; Akola Khamguam 28.25; Bengal 29.75. Chinese.—Business has been almost at a standstill for both "spot" and "forward." "Spot" is quoted. "Best" 29.75. "Common" 27.75. Shirtings.—Market quiet, prices firm. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Prospects continue fair, a few orders in Fancies have been booked for forward delivery. Worsteds and Woollens.—Nothing doing. Metals.—Market dull with no business doing. Sugar.—Cane.—Raw.—No stocks of Java Sugar, but Formosan Sugar well in demand. Osaka Refined.—The usual auctions took place on the 3rd and 13th instant, at each 3,500 Bags were offered and all disposed of at prices showing no change on the previous sale. In addition to the above, 2,000 bags Yokohama and 2,000 bags Kobe manufacture were sold. Rice.—Market declined, closing steady.

COAL.

HONGKONG, June 28th.—The arrivals of coal since the 10th inst. amounted to 75,922 tons of Japanese, 3,000 tons Hongkong and 6,400 Chin-wangtao. The coal expected is 41,700 tons Japanese, 8,200 tons Hongkong, 4,000 tons Borneo, 10,000 Wales and 32,000 tons North China. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$21.0 to 22.50 ex-godown, nominal.
Australian	\$12.50 ex-godown, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 Nominal.
Miki Lump	\$10.50 to 11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$8.00 to \$3.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Labuan Lump	\$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 25th June, 1909, state:—Another wet week has passed but not quite so bad as the two previous ones. It is, however, becoming rather too much of a good thing, and must soon have a deleterious effect on the crops if it continues much longer. That, and the Settling day, both a Customs and a Bank Holiday, have combined to make the week a quiet one, and not further the better feeling that was beginning to show itself when we penned our last. The most cheering news comes from Newchwang, however, which should soon show itself in the better business for that dependency. It is that the native Banks have agreed to revert to the old system in vogue there until a few years ago, in fact before the failure of a large Native Banking and Shipping Hong that so shook the credit of traders in the North. This is looked upon very favourably and has already had a stimulating effect on this market, and is expected to culminate in some free buying in the near future. It will certainly be a great relief when it comes, for holders are getting heartily sick of the inadequate prices that have prevailed for so long. There was evidently a set purpose amongst the Northern men to freeze out this market, but their object seems doomed to failure, thanks to the recently renewed strength that has been imported to the producing centres by the upward trend of Cotton. A total cessation of the shipment of fresh supplies would be of great benefit to this market, for it cannot have a ghost of a chance while these old stocks remain here, no matter in whose hands they are. It is reported, also that Tientsin has taken a small hand in the buying, which seems to be mainly in American makes, and from Native held stocks for the most part. From Hankow advices are fairly encouraging, though we learn that recently some direct buying has been indulged in there, more especially in White Shirtings. This should put the would-be suppliers here on their guard, not to rely too implicitly upon that market as an outlet. Ningpo is still taking fair quantities of heavy Shirtings, but news of severe floods and great damage to the crops comes from hoarding and that neighbourhood. The Manchester market, in spite of the lack of orders, is very strong in sympathy with Cotton. This morning the spot quotation for Mid-American comes 6.11d. in Liverpool, while "Futures" are steadily rising also. There is no definite information as to the cause for this advance so far, but it must be connected with the crop prospects, as quotations are rapidly advancing in New York, a telegram this morning quoting 11.26 cents for October option. Egyptian Cotton has advanced in Liverpool to 8.11d. for "spot." The Export of Plain Cottons from Manchester for the first half of this month amounted to nineteen million yards. Manchester quotes 9.1d. for 2/fold Grey Yarn, which is the equivalent of 11s. 14.00 per bale, against the present market price of 11s. 13.50. The Yarn market has been more active but it does not seem to be the consequence of improved consumption demand so much as the desire of a native speculator to corner Indian Spinings, which are in a fairly favourable position in spite of the increased stocks. Prices in Bombay are away above those ruling here, and there is no inducement to the natives to indent for supplies. Japanese Spinings are more active, and considerable attention is still being paid to the Local article. Native Cotton is quiet, but steady. There seems to be no particular anxiety regarding the new crop at the moment, but a continuance of the rain may make all the difference. As regards the home market, we learn that during a dull period in the early part of May some free buying was indulged in in Manchester for the Auction account here, purchases of all

kinds amounting to fully 200,000 pieces. Since then there has been a steady advance in prices and very little buying for the China market. In New York, too, prices are keeping very strong, it being estimated that the full demand for home consumption will require the entire attention of Manufacturers for months. It is reported that an offer from India of 11s. 9d. for Pepperell Drills has been declined. It is a price that is not likely to be offered from here for some considerable time. First hand holders have taken very little part in the business during the interval, and that mostly in American makes. Prices for these have kept fairly steady to a quarter of a mace advance. Together with raises the total business in these goods amounts to fully 4,000 bales. Drills and sheetings, 3,000 bales of which are destined for the Newchwang market. We can only gather particulars of some of the sales, as follows.—In Drills:—4 Parrot and Williston Tls. 4.60 and Massachusetts at Tls. 4.85. In Sheetings:—Buffalo at Tls. 4.85. Orr A and Piedmont Tls. 4.55, Lindale Tls. 4.57, Abbeville Tls. 4.62, Lion & Man, Massachusetts and Atlantic A Tls. 4.70. In English goods there is very little going on beyond the Auctions. Sales from stock, if any, are of the most retail character, there being absolutely no enquiry of any consequence. Jeans, that were progressing so favourably as compared with American makes, seem to have been over done, there being a lull in the inquiry which it is hoped will not be permanent, as stocks are accumulating, all three makes being much in excess of last year. The private enquiry for Fancy Goods has almost ceased, with the exception perhaps of one or two new lines of specialties in the way of Prints and Dyed goods that seem to be coming into fashion, to the detriment of old styles. Clearances on the whole have been decidedly poor. At the Auctions a full assortment of the usual goods continue to be sold, and taken altogether prices are fairly well maintained. With exception of a few of the intermediate weights of Grey Shirtings prices were steady to firm. For 64 and 72 reed White Shirtings firmer prices were paid, but with one or two exceptions the better makes show a drooping tendency. White Irishies are distinctly firmer. Grey T. Cloths are firmer, but Jeans are weak. In Fancy Goods the later sales of Turkey Reds have shown better results, but considering the statistical position prices are not what they should be. Fast Black Cotton Italians have sold somewhat irregularly, but on the average steadily, while Black Venetians went at generally slightly higher prices. The decline of Woollens noticed in the last two weeks has been partly arrested but with no regularity, for instance Long Ells declined yesterday, but were firmer to-day, and Lastings, vice versa. So it is difficult to describe the market, if it is worthy of that name.

EXPORTS:—

JAPANESE MARKET.

Copper.—Business was brisk in the beginning of the month but the sharp reaction of the London market prevented fresh transactions since 8th inst. Some of the holders are sold out for prompt, whilst others though having become a little weaker, still keep back. Fish Oil.—No business. Rice.—Market strong. Cotton Yarn.—The market is quiet. Vegetable Wax.—No change in the position. Manufacturers are holding out for higher prices. Matting.—Quotations have been well maintained during the past fortnight. Stocks scarce owing to reduced output, weavers being occupied trans-planting rice. Straw Braid and Chip Braid.—Prices were well maintained throughout the past fortnight, the market closing firm with upward tendency. Dealers' hands are said to be full up with orders and new business has been restricted in consequence.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 5th July.—The above market is at a standstill, and prices remain as last quoted.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Devanha*, sailed on 26th June. For Boston Mass.—100 bales waste silk. For Manchester—145 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar—1 case silk. For Milan—10 bales raw silk. For Lyons—568 bales raw silk. For Marseilles—201 bales raw silk, 6 bales human hair, 2 cases feathers, 1 case silk. For London—253 bales waste silk, 723 h/c tea, 46 bales raw silk, 5 pkgs silk, 3 cases feathers, 2 cases cigars, 20 cases p'effects.

HAKKOW, 16th June.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 37.50
Do. seconds	" 33.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 22.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 7.90
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayun	" 6.90
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 11.50
White, Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 9.60
Animal Tallow	" 10.50
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.20
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 19.50
Tobacco, Tinchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Black Bristles, Riflings	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.85
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.85
Tea Oil	" —

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 2nd July, 1909.—The market has continued quiet in tone during the week and the small business that has been transacted has been limited to a few stocks. Rates, however, have steadied a bit and several important advances have to be chronicled, the market closing firm and with an incipient enquiry for most stocks. Exchange on London T/T 1/9½, on Shanghai 74½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai after some small sales at \$1000, and the demand meeting but with a very limited supply, were placed at 10½, 1010, and 1012½ and at time of closing buyers at the higher rate rule the market. The London rate has advanced to £95, and the latest Shanghai advices give \$1025 buyers at ex 73.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have changed hands at 840 and 837½, closing quiet with sellers at the latter rate. North Chinas have advanced to 108 with buyers and no sales to report. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas have improved to 111 with sales. Hongkong remain unchanged with buyers at 345.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled rather quieter with sales and a few shares still offering at 33. China & Manila have declined to 10 without sales. Star Ferrys have been placed at 26 and 15½ for old and new respectively. Indos have found local buyers at 66 and a few shares have changed hands at that.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars were placed in the early part of the week in several lots at 135, but later the market rallied and returned to 140 with sales. At time of closing, however, shares are on offer at the latter rate. Luzons continue with sellers at 15.

MINING.—With the exception of Chinese Engineerings, which have fallen to 18½, we have no changes to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks after sales in the early part of the week at 64, suddenly came in to demand, and in the absence of shares, the rate rapidly rose to 70 at which a few changed hands, with more shares on offer however the rate failed to be maintained, and the market closes weaker with sellers at 68. Wharfs have ruled very quiet and without business, buyers at time of closing ruling the market at 57. Shanghai Docks have improved, in the North, to 82, and Hongkew Wharfs to 163.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet with only a few small sales to report at 108. West point's have found further buyers at 46½ and close steady at that rate. Hotels could be placed to a limited extent at 68 and 38. Humphreys continue in

demand at 9½ without bringing any shares on the market.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have boomed in the North to 133. Internationals have receded a point to 88, and Laou Kung Mows have advanced to 110. The two last mentioned quotations are by mail. Soy Chees continue quiet at 370.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos, China Providents, Union Water Boats, and Watkins have all been placed in small lots at quotations Dairy Farms have improved to 16½ with buyers and Langka's to 1085. Peak Trams, Electrics, and Landrys, are all in demand without bringing any sellers on the market. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$1,012½, buyers
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6d.	\$104, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$144, sales & sel.
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$7, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9.00, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 59	Tls. 133
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$84, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 88
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 370
Dairy Farm Co.	\$6	\$164, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$57, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$67, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$9
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 82
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 163
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$11, sellers
G. Island Cement Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$20, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$25	\$68, (old) buy.
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$38, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$155, sellers
H'kong Rope M. Co.	\$10	\$25
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$195, sellers
China Fire	20	\$141, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$85½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$345, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 108, buyers
Union	\$100	\$87½, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$215
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$108, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$94, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30 sales & sel.
Shanghai Land	Tls. 5	Tls. 120, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$46½, sales
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fr. 250	\$625, buyers
Raubs	15/10d.	\$9, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$134, buyers
Philippine Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$11
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$140, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$10, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$36
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$33, sales
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$44½, sales
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$61½, x.d.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$26, sales
South China M. Post	\$5	\$15½, sales
Steam Laundry Co.	\$25	\$24, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$12
Wm. Powell, Ltd.	\$7	\$4, seller
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$3½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$8.70, sellers
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	\$150, buyers
United Asbestos	\$10	\$4, \$13
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$300
		\$11, sales

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

24th June, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$1,015
National of China	26	\$50, sales
Russo-Chinese	R187½	Tls. 125
Insurance—		
Union Society C'tn	\$100	\$345, sales
North-China	25	Tls. 108, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$230
Canton	\$50	\$195, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$345, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$110, buyers
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. }	25	Tls. 50.
Shell Trans. { ord. }	21	\$23.20
& Trading { pref. }	210	\$11.00, buyers
S'hai Tug & { ord. }	T50	Tls. 51, sales
Lighter { pref. }	T50	Tls. 53, sellers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 45, sellers
Kochien Transportation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 47½, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 78.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$67, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 160, sales
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$59, buyers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 205, sales
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 270, sales
China Refining	\$100	\$142, sales
Mining—		
Raub Australian	21	\$94, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	21	Tls. 18½, sellers
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 120, sales
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$111, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$94, buyers
Weihaiwei	T20	Tls. 9
China	T50	Tls. 50
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 104, buyers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 127, sales
International	T75	T. 87/87½, sales
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 110, sales
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 375, sellers
H. C. S. W. D. Co., Ltd.	T10	Tls. 8½, buyers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 110, sales
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 52½
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 15, sales
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 41, buyers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 40, sellers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$9½, sales
Maatschappij, & Co. in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 1,050, buyers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 170, buyers
Dominion Rubbers	T6	Tls. 9, sales
S'hai Waterworks	220	Tls. 415
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	\$100	\$75, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	T50	Tls. 20, sales
Kalumpang Rubber	T50	Tls. 180, sales
S. R'ber Estates	T100	Tls. 260, sellers
T. R. & T. Estate Co.	21	Tls. 14, sellers
Eastern Fibre	210	Tls. 10
Shanghai Electric Construction	210	\$8.00, sellers
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$22½, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$65
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$19, sellers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$45
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$26, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$20, sellers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$71, sel. ex div.
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 4, sellers
Tientsin Hotel	\$100	Tls. 75, sales
Lane, Crawford & Co.	\$100	\$165
Dunning & Co.	\$50	\$40, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazar	T50	Tls. 55, sales
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 61, sales
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$21, sales
Dallas Horse Repository	T70	Tls. 25
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

J. P. BISSETT & Co.

Messrs J. P. Biset & Co., in their Share Report for the week ending 2nd June, state:—The principal feature in past week has been covering and arranging for June settlement. This settlement which takes place on the 28th instant is possibly the largest on record. Banks.—No business reported. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. continue to be quoted at \$1.015 nominal. The Bank T. T. rate to-day is 2/4. Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Sales of Indo-Chinas are reported at Tls. 55 for July and later at Tls. 53 for June. On the telegraphic news of the Company's Accounts shares fell to Tls. 50 for cash and Tls. 51 for September. Shanghai Tug Boat Ordinary shares have been placed at Tls. 50. Docks & Wharves.—Shanghai Docks have placed at Tls. 81.50 for June. On the Directors notification of their intention to pay a final dividend of Tls. 2.50 making Tls. 5 for the year, shares fell to Tls. 78 and Tls. 78.50 for June.—A transaction is reported at Tls. 82 for September. Hongkew Wharf, market has been fairly steady at Tls. 160 for cash and Tls. 169, Tls. 167, Tls. 166.50 and Tls. 166. for September. Forward shares were wanted at the latter rate. Sugar.—Perak Sugar have been placed at Tls. 275, Tls. 277.50, Tls. 280 and Tls. 272.50 for June. Lands.—No business reported excepting a transaction in Shanghai Land at Tls. 121 for cash. Industrial.—There has been an active business in Ewos both for cash and forward. Cash shares have been placed at Tls. 125, Tls. 124.75, Tls. 125 and Tls. 126. September shares at Tls. 122, Tls. 127.50, Tls. 129 and Tls. 130. There are buyers for cash and time at a slightly better rates. Internationals have been placed at Tls. 88.50 and Tls. 88 for cash and Tls. 91.50 for September. Laou Kung Mows have been placed for cash at Tls. 108 and Tls. 108.50. Shanghai Gas have been placed at Tls. 110. Rubber Shares.—Dominions at Tls. 9. Tebongs at Tls. 15 for cash and Tls. 14.50 for September. Senawangs at Tls. 260 for cash. Langkats.—The market has been erratic during the week opening with sales for September at Tls. 1,110, Tls. 1,100 and Tls. 1,090. On the 18th instant June shares were placed at Tls. 1,055, Tls. 1,025, Tls. 1,015 and Tls. 1,000 on that day a transaction was reported at Tls. 975 for June and for September settlement shares were placed at Tls. 1,085, Tls. 1,050, and Tls. 1,040. On the 19th instant June shares were placed at Tls. 1,025, Tls. 1,040 and Tls. 1,050 and for September at Tls. 1,100. On the 21st instant June shares were placed at Tls. 1,050 and Tls. 1,055 and yesterday June shares at Tls. 1,055, Tls. 1,047.50 and Tls. 1,045 and for September at Tls. 1,100. Squatras has been placed at Tls. 175 and Tls. 174 for September and for June at Tls. 164. The market is easy with sellers. Miscellaneous.—Hall & Holtz has been placed at \$23. Weeks at \$26. Moutrie at \$42.50 and Electric Asbestos at \$20. Debentures.—Central Stores 8 per cent. have been placed at Tls. 104.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, June 5th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 3/4
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Credits at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months sight ..	1/9 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	221 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	225 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	180
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43
Credits, 60 days' sight	44 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	132 1/2
Bank, on demand	132 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	132 1/2
Bank on demand	132 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	85 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	86 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	75 1/2
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	105 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	8 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	8 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	85 1/2
SWEDISHS, Bank's Buying Rate	
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	
BAR SILVER per oz	

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 18th June.—Per Conference Steamers To London and Northern Continental ports 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G \$1.50 cents per lb gross less than carload Tea G \$1.75 cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 2.50 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

June:—
 24, Fri, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 24, Sikh, British str., from Singapore.
 24, Spir, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.
 25, Devanha, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, E. F. Ferdinand, Aus. str., from Kobe.
 25, Fooshing, British str., from Ta-ching-ho.
 25, Freya, Nor. str., from Bangkok.
 25, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 25, Manshu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 25, Marie King, Rus. str., from Chinwangtao.
 25, P. Sigismund, German str., from Sydney.
 25, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 25, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 25, Tjikini, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 26, Chihli, British str., from Iloilo.
 26, Hainun, British str., from Swatow.
 26, Hinsang, British str., from Moji.
 26, Hupeh, British str., from Pulo Sambo.
 26, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 26, Orestes, British str., from Singapore.
 26, Silvia, German str., from Foochow.
 26, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
 26, Thordis, Nor. str., from Bangkok.
 26, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Swatow.
 26, Yatshing, Br. str., from Chinwangtao.
 27, Bunjun Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 27, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 27, Eastern, British str., from Australian.
 27, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.
 27, Hilary, German str., from Swatow.
 27, Menelaus, British str., from Japan.
 27, Oceano, British str., from Manila.
 27, Prometheus, British str., from Liverpool.
 28, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 28, Chihua, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Hirano Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 28, Kjeld, Nor. str., from Newchwang.
 28, Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 28, Phranang, German str., from Hoihow.
 28, Taikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Miike.
 28, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Amoy.
 28, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 28, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 29, Banri Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 29, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 29, Kleist, German str., from Hamburg.
 29, Nippon M., Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
 29, Simongan, Dutch str., from Samarang.
 29, Takasaki Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
 29, Yochow, British str., from Moji.
 30, Glenfarg, Br. str., from Vladivostock.
 30, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 30, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 30, Linan, British str., from Shanghai.
 30, Namur, British str., from Yokohama.
 30, Peiho, German str., from South sea Id.
 30, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
 30, Sardinia, British str., from London.
 30, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.
 30, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 30, Victoria, Swedish str., from Haiphong.
 30, Verwards, Ger. str., from Penang.

July—

1, Daigi Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 1, Fitzpatrick, British str., from Colombo.
 1, Fooksang, British str., from Moji.
 1, Glenearn, British str., from London.
 1, Halvard, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 1, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 1, Seminole, Brit. str., from San Francisco.
 1, Sithonia, German str., from Hankow.
 1, Slavonia, German str., from Singapore.
 1, Yunnan, British str., from Swatow.

June:—

25, Awa Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 25, Bellerophon, British str., for Saigon.
 25, Chunsang, British str., for Hongay.
 25, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.

25, Haldis, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 25, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 26, Devanha, British str., for Europe, &c.
 26, Fukui Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 26, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
 26, Keongwai, German str., for Swatow.
 26, Kiang Ping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
 26, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
 26, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 26, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
 26, Tjikini, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
 27, Alesia, German str., for Calcutta.
 27, Chenan, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Cheongshing, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Fausang, British str., for Kobe.
 27, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Hupeh, British str., for Foochow.
 27, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 27, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Sikh, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 28, Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Prometheus, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Arratoon Apar, Br. str., for Singapore.
 29, Benmohr, British str., for Bangkok.
 29, Clara Jebesen, German str., for Haiphong.
 29, Chihli, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 29, Eastern, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, E. F. Ferdinand, Aus. str., for Singapore.
 29, Fri, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 29, Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
 29, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Korea, American str., for Shanghai.
 29, Orestes, British str., for Nagasaki.
 29, Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 29, Welsh Prince, Brit. str., for Yokohama.
 30, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 30, Hirano Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 30, Kaifuku Maru, Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.
 30, Kleist, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, Menelaus, British str., for Singapore.
 30, Sungkiang, British str., for Iloilo.
 30, Takasaki Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 30, Thordis, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 30, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Batavia.

July—

1, Banri Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 1, Bunjun Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 1, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 1, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 1, Glenfarg, British str., for London.
 1, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 1, Manshu Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 1, Namur, British str., for Singapore.
 1, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Europe, &c.
 1, Sardinia, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Daijin Maru*, from Swatow, Mr Bedford.
 Per *Linan*, from Shanghai, Messrs Jagon and Dowarion.
 Per *Glenearn*, from London, &c., Messrs Whitefield and Sparkes.
 Per *Hanoi*, from Haiphong, &c., Mr and Mrs Moutes, Dr Bonillet and Mr Berthier.
 Per *Peiho*, from South sea Islands, &c., Dr. Reche, Dr. Duncker, Messrs Vogel & Hellwig.
 Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mr and Mrs Mutton, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Ozorio and Dr. Shultz.
 Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Lieut. and Mrs J. S. Powers and child, Messrs David Lyle and H. S. T. James.
 Per *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr W. Brockstedt; from Kobe, Mr B. Miller; from Nagasaki, Messrs Crake and W. E. McMahon; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs S. A. Lane, Miss A. Rothsprack, Messrs Sennet, H. Koch, C. H. Graves, Bois, H. P. Schmidt and boy, Manlay, Ditor, J. McArthur, Guerrero and Arriola.

DEPARTED.

Per *Awa Maru*, for Japan, Mrs T. Saito, Lt. F. V. Kirwan, Messrs S. Fujimura, H. P. Pattenden and L. Lekray.
 Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Lt. and Mrs C. W. Mason, Messrs G. Tuason, P. Tuason, L. Dyson, D. W. Deshler, A. J. Tsaal, C. Hayes, F. H. Clabby and J. B. Bolden.

Printed and published by BERTHAM AUGUSTUS HALL, for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong; London Office, 131, Fleet Street, E.C.